





Sketch

MPs taken with a pinch of salt



Simon Hoggart

ONCE a month, for just 10 minutes, MPs have the chance to ask questions about a topic of over-whelming interest and importance — themselves. Their queries are addressed to Alan Beth, the Liberal Democrat MP who answers on behalf of the House of Commons Commission.

bar and the Braveheart Individual Portion Pizzeria. Mr Beth, however, seemed dismissive of all these plans. Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab, Crewe and Nantwich) paused for a tribute to the Serjeant at Arms who, like William Wallace, is a fictionalised figure from our historical past, dressed in a ludicrous over-the-top costume, though without the blue paint down his nose.

Talk of counter-action rings hollow as ministers prepare to accept phased lifting of EU export ban

Major to retreat on beef

John Palmer in Luxembourg and Michael White

THE British government is braced to accept a phased lifting of the European Union's worldwide ban on British beef exports, in a striking switch of tactics from its original demand for an immediate and total removal of the embargo.

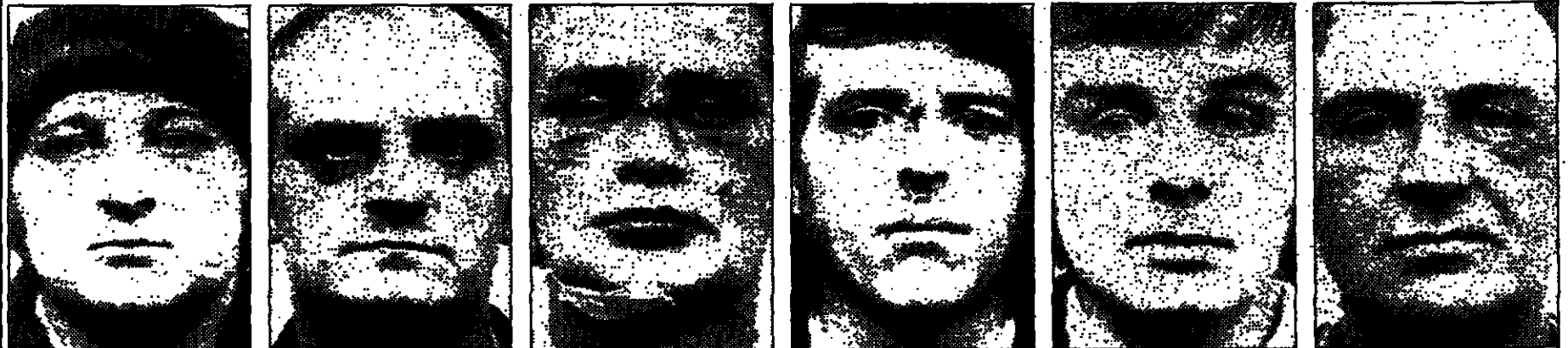
The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, last night distanced himself from reports that the Government is ready to retaliate with trade sanctions, or by withholding Britain's £800 million monthly budget contribution, if the ban is not rapidly removed.

Brussels today between the farm minister, Douglas Hogg, and the agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler. Mr Hogg will insist there is no scientific evidence for continuing the ban, and he will recall Mr Fischler's own readiness to eat British beef.

Northern Ireland, where the incidence of BSE has been far lower than in England. "We are not talking here about lifting the ban on a regional basis, because we want the UK case considered as a whole," one British source said.

suggesting that John Major was ready to impose sweeping counter measures. "Trade sanctions of this kind could trigger tit-for-tat counter measures and a real crisis," one senior commission official warned.

The Birmingham Six . . . then and now



PADDY JOE HILL, 51, who famously punched the air in a victory salute when he emerged from the Old Bailey in 1991, has never concealed the trauma of freedom. He was divorced from his wife Pat in 1983 and she remarried. They had six children. He still lives in London with his girlfriend. He has been a vociferous campaigner against injustice, speaking in 15 US states within the first year of his release.

HUGH CALLAGHAN, at 65 the oldest of the men, remained in London after his release, struggling to re-establish life with his wife Eileen. Their only daughter, Geraldine, lost her husband in a car crash shortly after his release, when she was expecting her second child. In 1993 he published his autobiography, Cruel Fate, in which he says he has no bitterness. "I do feel a great sadness at the futility of it all," he wrote.

RICHARD McILKENNY, 62, has been married to Kate for 35 years. They first moved to Dublin and now have a house with two big gardens in a village in Co Kildare. One of their five children, Ann, moved to the same village with her three children, and some of their many grandchildren often come to stay over the holidays. "We live a quiet life, just like pensioners," Kate said yesterday.

GERRY HUNTER, 47, broke up with Sandra, his wife of 25 years, three months after his release, although they remain close friends. They have three children. He lives in south-east London but has not worked since he left prison, where he was the most private and withdrawn of the Six. Freedom transformed him and restored his humour. He, too, went public, visiting relatives of prisoners on death row in Jamaica.

BILLY POWER, 49, was amicably divorced by his wife Nora in 1990 after the first, failed appeal, but she remained one of the most active campaigners and they remarried after his release. "It was the most natural thing in the world," he said. They have four children and still live in London. Mr Power has spent much time campaigning on other miscarriages of justice.

JOHNNY WALKER, 60, had been married to Theresa on his release in 1991. She left Birmingham shortly after the bombings to live in Derry with their six daughters and one son. Mr Walker joined them and they bought a new house, but he found it impossible to fit into family life. The couple separated after a year. Mr Walker has remarried and lives in Donegal with a new son.

First night

Hard woman, hard act, slightly scary

Bob Flynn

Maria McKee The Arches, Glasgow

IN THE middle of a parade of new American-Canadian pop princesses — Alanis Morissette was in town the night before, with kd lang waiting in later — Maria McKee appeared in a venue disturbingly like something out of Terry Gilliam's The Monkeys. The Arches, vaulted caverns are covered with air ducts and its recesses tremble with the Central Station trains rolling overhead.

The last time she visited Britain was for Ozzy Osbourne and no make-up, while delivering concerts boiling with a natural sensuality. So, instead of the staid she is underneath The Arches, reducing men to slavering adolescent boys. The cry of the shouted request (male) for Like A Virgin was not lost on McKee, who still looks as if she would be happier shooting out the porch lights and kicking the boys from the trees.

Freed men's indelible trauma

continued from page 1 but my view is that it should be nearer £3 million.

yesterday's Daily Telegraph that all six had been given final offers of up to £400,000 and were about to challenge this in the High Court led to criticism from Tory MPs.

with great fairness and they are trying to make a laughing stock of the British nation.

been cleared, an assessment was made and they would be far better to keep quiet about it.

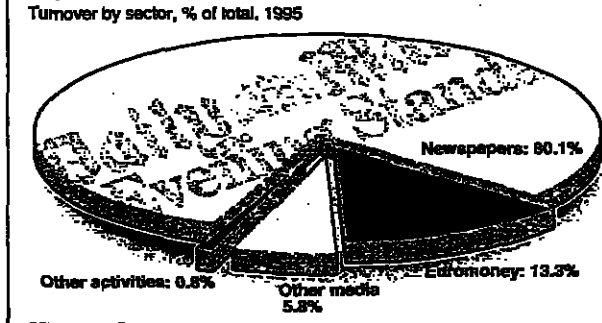
to have identified the real bombers, said: "What the men really wanted when they came out was some help in coming to terms with their lives, but none of that was forthcoming."

Mail group buys into ITN

Lisa Buckingham

ASSOCIATED Newspapers, which owns the Daily Mail and London Evening Standard, yesterday paid £20.2 million for one fifth of the news broadcaster, ITN.

Daily Mail and General Trust Turnover by sector, % of total, 1995



What they do

- National newspapers: Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday, You magazine, Evening Standard.
Other media: Own 70.5% of Euro money plus magazines, exhibitions, cable and TV production companies including Channel One in London, People Bank (Internet Recruitment).

Associates Various stakes including (%)

Table listing stakes in various companies: Bristol Evening Post (24%), Teletext (45%), Westcountry TV (20%), GWR Group (radio) (22%), Select TV (14%), ITN (20%).

and is expected to cut its annual fee of about £55 million by about a third. Sources close to ITN, which made profits of £15.3 million in 1995, say that stabilisation of the ownership structure should also help remove doubts that the prime bul-

tin, News at Ten, will be forced to change its time slot. Associated owns a large stake in the independent radio group, GWR, and Classic FM. It has 20 per cent of the ITV company, Westcountry TV, and a 45 per cent holding in the on-screen information service, Teletext.

"I use my own body because that's where I live" — unlike a long line of artists who preferred to use women's bodies. Bea Campbell on Gormley's Angel

Advertisement for L.L.Bean featuring the slogan "Great outdoor wear from over there" and "that's easy to get over here". Includes a coupon to request a free catalog and contact information for L.L.Bean in Freeport, Maine.

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# Shares soar as left takes over in Italy

**John Hooper in Rome**

**T**HE Italian left was last night readying itself for its first real taste of power after an historic victory in Sunday's general election. Final results showed the Olive Tree alliance of former Communists, the Socialists, progressive Christian Democrats, and Greens could enjoy a clear majority in the lower house of parliament — but only with help from hardline Marxists.

Fears that this could lead to tensions within the ruling coalition were brushed aside by investors who saw in the results a chance for stable government by a respected economist. The centre-left's candidate for prime minister is Romano Prodi, a Bologna university professor and former chairman of the state holding company IRI.

Share values soared by almost 5 per cent on the Milan Stock Exchange but bond prices and the value of the lira dipped later on figures indicating a resurgence of inflation.

That is one of many problems facing the new government in a country which needs through reform. Prof Prodi said his first steps would include cutting interest rates and rejoining the European Union's exchange rate mechanism.

His right-hand man, Walter Veltroni of the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), said other priorities included a simplification of tortuous tax regulations and aid to small businesses in the depressed south.

Asked if Italy might be in for a period of austerity, Prof Prodi said: "If seriousness is called austerity, yes."

The defeated leader of the right, Silvio Berlusconi, dismissed speculation that he might leave politics. The television tycoon, who is being tried for corruption, said his alliance, which includes free-marketiers, former neo-fascists and ex-Christian Democrats, was "important for keeping Italy within the bounds of a true democracy."

The Olive Tree alliance will need the support of the orthodox Marxists of Communist Refoundation, whose leader, Fausto Bertinotti, yesterday promised to "help give birth" to a centre-left administration. But he made it clear he hoped to influence the government "in a programmed way". His campaign proposal for a return to index-linked pay was, nevertheless, vigorously brushed aside.

Olive Tree could, in theory, seek the support of the far-right Northern League, which did better than expected in Sunday's ballot. But the League's leader, Umberto Bossi, who revived threats of secession during the campaign, scorned any sort of alliance with either of the two nationally-based blocs. He said: "We shall be going to Rome ... in the certainty that the north knows how to free itself from the colonialist power."

At the Vatican, a key force in blocking the Communists' from power after the second world war, Father Federico Lombardi, the director of programmes for Vatican radio, said he hoped the result would usher in a period of stable government "so as to be to solve urgent problems".

He noted that, for the first time, the Church had not given the faithful advice on how to vote.

**Berlusconi defiant, page 6; Leader comment, page 5; Spring-cleaning, page 9**

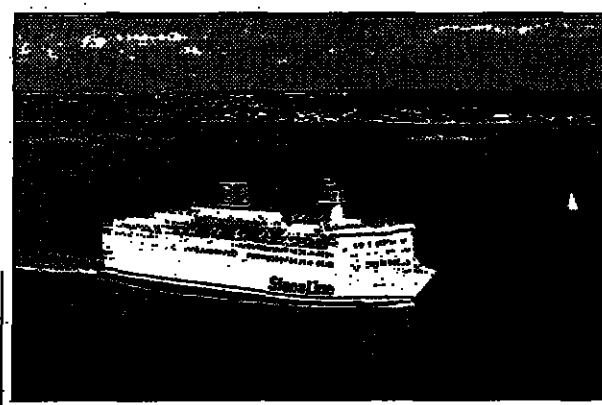


The way ahead... more and better services are expected at Eurotunnel terminals such as Waterloo, in an effort to compete with ferry duty fees. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

## Eurotunnel goes to war with £900m loss

**Summer price war forecast as firm offers 'more grief' for ferries**

**Ian King**



Stena will have to cut sailings, Eurotunnel forecasts

**A**CROSS-Channel price war looks inevitable again this summer after Eurotunnel, the Channel tunnel operator, yesterday revealed net losses of £925 million for the year — one of the worst figures in British corporate history.

An ebullient Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's chairman, brushed aside the losses and promised "more grief" for ferry operators this summer, with a string of bold marketing initiatives.

Although he refused to go into details, Sir Alastair said Eurotunnel's services would be marketed more aggressively, consolidating the group's position as market leader.

Among likely moves are an improvement in the quality and range of services at the Channel terminals and although Eurotunnel yesterday ruled out a price-war, analysts expect prices to fall.

Sir Alastair also predicted that cross-Channel ferry operators, such as P&O and Stena Sealink, would have to cut crossings this year. Over

**Passenger share**

	1995	1996
Eurotunnel	73	74
P&O	48	30
Stena Sealink	32	20
Others (Hoverspeed, Sealy, Sea France)	7	9

Source: Eurotunnel, Stena Sealink

the past two years, the ferry companies had increased daily crossings on the Dover-Calais route from 49 to 65, and he accused them of subsidising fares with duty free sales.

Sir Alastair added: "We're hurting the ferries where they need to be hurt, and hope they will start to rationalise their operations this year. As long as they don't, we'll hurt them more and more."

His remarks were seized on by Stena Sealink, which accused Eurotunnel of trying to create a monopoly by pricing its competitors out of the market.

Stena spokesman Brian Rees said: "If their priority is now to inflict pain on ferry operators to establish themselves as a monopoly player, that's predatory pricing, and the economics of the madhouse."

Mr Rees indicated that if Eurotunnel were guilty of predatory pricing, Stena would consider complaining to competition authorities in Brussels.

As part of its drive to compete with Eurotunnel, Stena would cut up to a third of the price of its best-selling duty free cigarettes and spirits in May, to coincide with the launch of two new high-speed services.

Eurotunnel, which froze interest payments on its £2.8 billion debt last September, insisted that the results, including interest payments of £788 million, were in line with expectations.

Sir Alastair admitted that the figures were disappointing, but pointed out that Eurotunnel — whose losses work out at £1,760 a minute — had grabbed almost half the cross-Channel market in its first year of operations, making it market leader. "Not many companies go from zero to 45 per cent in their first year, so perhaps we've actually done rather well."

However, the City reacted with disappointment at Sir Alastair's failure to come up with news on negotiations with Eurotunnel's bankers, and marked the shares down 4 1/2 to 69p.

Eurotunnel's 226 bankers are deciding how to restructure the group's debts, and although Sir Alastair denied it yesterday, an arrangement allowing the banks to swap some of their debts for a stake in Eurotunnel looks likely.

**Leader comment, page 5; Notebook, page 11; Outlook, page 12**

## Golfer punches hole in etiquette

**Alex Bellis**

**G**OLF is meant to be the best behaved of sports, and its players abide by a gentlemanly etiquette.

One particular unwritten rule, however, which the uninitiated would do well to remember, is this: never tee off when the people in front you are still in range.

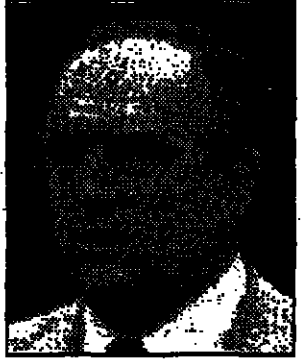
Terry Duke didn't take this advice. He ended up with a handicap no perfect swing could remedy — a broken jaw.

Portsmouth crown court heard yesterday how a row at a Hampshire club over a breach of the gentleman's code resulted in one of the most violent outbreaks of "golf rage" ever witnessed. Mr Duke, a builder aged 57, was taken to hospital after he was whacked with his own club by a man ahead of him at the same hole.

The incident began when Mr Duke's son Peter, a low-



Terry Duke: played shot despite players in front



Charles Haines: hit Duke in the face with his own club

handicap player, teed off on the 14th hole of the Cams Hall Estate golf course, and the ball flew past the group in front. The court heard that Peter shouted "fore" and the group, including Charles Haines, a 64-year-old businessman, quickly moved to the side.

But as Duke *par* moved to his tee, Haines walked out into the middle of the fairway and stood with his hands on his hips staring back at him some 250 yards away. Mr Duke played the shot, all the same.

Shortly afterwards, as the Dukes prepared to play their approach shots to the green, Mr Haines jogged back up the fairway and started threatening them.

"Mr Haines was heard to say: 'Who's having this? And then he threw a punch at Mr Duke senior, which missed," said Simon Foster, prosecuting. Mr Haines denies grievous bodily harm and assault.

"Mr Duke raised his club to protect his face and Mr Haines grabbed it away. He then swung it around his head, hitting Mr Duke on the right-hand side of his face," Mr Foster told the court.

"Mr Haines then punched Mr Duke again and grabbed his shirt, ripping it as the two men fell to the ground. Then an unsightly fight took place between the two men, before others arrived and managed to prise them apart."

The court heard that Mr Duke tried to retaliate as Mr Haines was dragged away, but he was restrained. Both men have since been expelled from the £2,850-a-year club. The case continues.

## Molly Keane, chronicler of dextrous monstrosities, dies

**John Ezard**

**T**HE Irish writer, Molly Keane, whose twin careers spanned more than 60 years, has died aged 81.

Her first stories were published in 1934. She had plays directed by Sir John Gielgud in London's West End in the same decade, under the pen name MJ Farrell. After a long obscurity, she was rediscovered in 1961, when her novel, Good Behaviour, was short-listed for the Booker Prize under her own name.

This late second flowering was comparable only with the re-emergence of the novelist, Jean Rhys, in the 1970s.

Ms Keane lived for much of her later life in a white-washed cottage in County Wexford. All that her surviving high society friends were apt to say of her later writing was "I didn't find one spelling mistake".

She said: "My books don't feel part of my life. I've only ever done it for the money."

When someone tells me they've liked my book, I may feel a kind of drunken warmth. But I somehow feel they're talking to someone else."

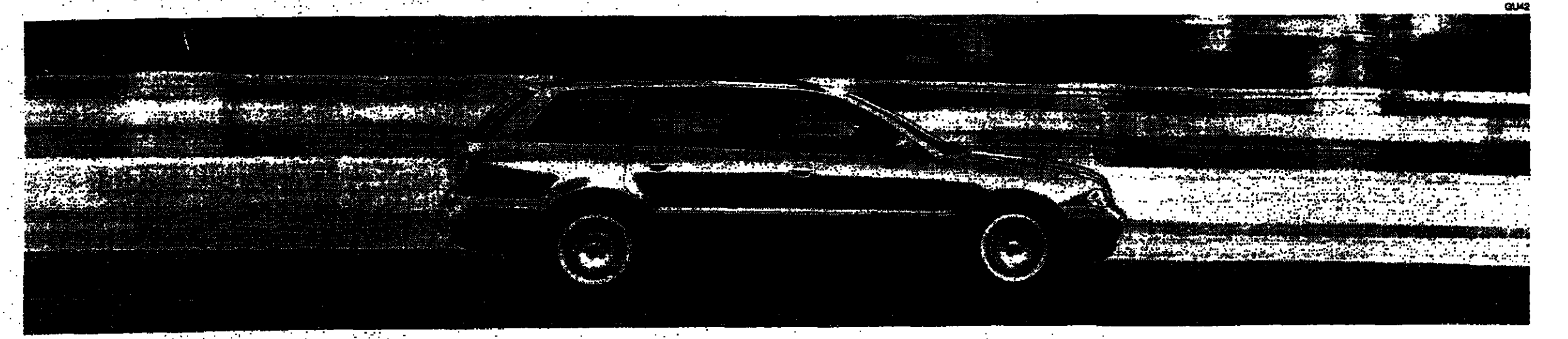
She grew up as an upper-class Anglo-Irish gentleman's daughter. Borrowing her pseudonym from an Irish pub licensee's name she had noticed while hunting, she had Spring Meeting, the first of five plays, performed in London in 1938.

The death of her husband, Bobby, at a youthful age silenced her artistically until the 1970s.

"I see little cruelties very plainly," she said. "People can be hideously unkind. I have often watched the dextrous monstrosities between the rich and not-so-rich."

Her subsequent novels were Time after Time, which, like Good Behaviour, was televised, followed by Nursery Cooking and Loving and Giving.

**Obituary, page 10**



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**Local elections**  
**Stoke-on-Trent city council**  
**In control**  
 Labour controlled:  
 Labour 50 seats  
 Tories 10 seats

All 60 seats will be contested for the new unitary authority which begins work on April 1, 1997

**MPs**  
 ● Jean Wallley (Stoke-on-Trent North, Labour majority 14,777)  
 ● Mark Fleher (Stoke-on-Trent Central, Labour majority 13,420)  
 ● George Stevens (Stoke-on-Trent Central, Labour majority 9,909)

**Population**  
 250,000

**Famous sons**

**Stanley Matthews**  
 Blackpool (1947-61) and Stoke City (1961-65)  
 Footballer, who also played for England 55 times, was born and brought up in Hanley and given the freedom of Stoke-on-Trent in 1963.

**John Wain**  
 One of the leading Angry Young Men after publication of his novel 'Hurry On Down' in 1953, also a noted poet and literary critic, was born in Stoke-on-Trent. A prize-winning biographer of Samuel Johnson.

## Tories feel heat as Five Towns vote as one

The Tories face a "massacre in the Potteries" at Stoke's next week's local elections. Maryn Halsall visits a city preparing for the restoration of its power as a new unitary authority.

THE writer J B Priestley of the Potteries in Stoke next week's local elections and found only "mythical city". Architectural guru Nikolaus Pevsner despaired over "an urban tragedy". But the capital of the Potteries, which is preparing to take back its services next year for the first time since 1974, remains unshamed of its industrial past.

The "unique" city of six towns — "Arnold Bennett missed one out and the people of Fenton have never forgiven him," said a local patriot — now invites visitors to its historic potteries to "feel the heat and taste the soot." It is also preparing for a political massacre on May 2, predicts Stoke's Labour leader Ted Smith.

His party holds 50 of the 60 council seats which will all be

contested in the local elections. The balance of 10 Tories emerged during days of disillusionment after the last general election, but this time Mr Smith has found Labour fervour unparalleled since his first involvement in local politics in 1945. Labour's landslide victory in the general election.

"It's lovely knocking on doors with your colours on and hearing people saying: 'Labour, yes, no problem,'" he said. His forecast for Tory rivals is crisp: "And then there were none."

Nigel Howle, who has gauged the political pendulum for the past five years for the Stoke Sentinel newspaper, thinks that a 59-two Labour-Tory result is a fair forecast. With up to nine candidates in some of the 20 wards, a novel Lib-Dem presence is also possible.

The next year will be spent preparing for the new response to the rebellion of the council's workforce when



A brick tribute to Stoke's traditional industry. Labour predicts Tory support will crumble on May 2 PHOTOGRAPH: DON MIPHES

education, social services, libraries, and consumer protection are returned from Staffordshire county council.

The 20 councillors with the best majorities will not face the electorate again until 2000. There will be no local elections in 1997 and for the next three years candidates will be fielded in order of their vulnerability.

Issues around Bennett's Five Towns of Tunstall, Burslem, Hanley, Stoke and Longton — plus Fenton — suggest a rehearsal for a general election. Pottery and pit redundancies are still blamed on the Government, while Labour is credited with some pragmatic public-private sector partnerships.

Ted Smith forecasts 10,000 new jobs — mostly in electronics and light industry — will emerge from £750 million of investment "in the pipeline".

The city is also aiming for a broader economic future with the China Line minibus service linking historic potteries. At the Gladstone works, some restorative Euro-fund-

## Mentally ill driver left free to kill

A CATALOGUE of blunders left a paranoid schizophrenic free to kill a mother in a random attack, an inquiry found yesterday. Nitesh Gadhur, 37, struck Sanita Kaura, 27, at speeds of 46mph while driving in a west London car park.

The independent inquiry says a psychiatrist misunderstood mental health laws and did not know Gadhur, a former pharmacist, could be "sectioned" over fears for his health.

Instead of compulsory treatment in hospital, Gadhur, who had not complied with medication for 18 months, was allowed in the community. This was "at best, naive", says the report.

Gadhur had been in hospital four times, and was receiving outpatient treatment at West Middlesex hospital.

Staff failed to act on signs of a deterioration in his condition after he became a minicab driver. Six months earlier his father and brother warned he could kill himself or another person.

But the inquiry team, chaired by John Main QC, conclude that the tragedy was not predictable and stress that no one person or agency was to blame.

The report adds, however, that it might have been averted had Gadhur been readmitted to hospital or prevented from driving.

The inquiry, ordered by Ealing Hammersmith and Hounslow health authority and the borough of Hounslow, highlights confusion over the Mental Health Act and says a car can be as dangerous as a gun in the hands of someone mentally ill.

The report blames inadequate care plans and a breakdown in communications, but says nothing in the law can prevent a person driving against advice and calls for radical overhaul of guidelines on when the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency should be told of a mental illness.

Gadhur was convicted someone was stealing songs he had written when he killed Mrs Kaura, mother of a baby daughter, in September 1994.

He was first diagnosed as a schizophrenic in 1986 and was admitted to hospital in December 1993 after a failed suicide attempt.

Doctors from Hounslow and Spelthorne Community Mental Health Trust decided to discharge him in March 1994. But he was not given the support he needed and received only monthly visits by his social worker despite his wish for more.

The inquiry team said staff at Heston Work Centre noticed changes in Gadhur's behaviour at the beginning of August but social services and medical authorities failed to take proper action.

His key social worker, like the psychiatrist, did not realise that Gadhur could be given compulsory treatment under the Mental Health Act.

The report notes mental health services were under intense pressure at the time because of a lack of resources.

The inquiry team made 17 recommendations. It says someone must be responsible for telling the DVLA of people with a known mental illness on medication.

Miles Bellamy, health authority chief executive, said around £42 per head of population was being spent on mental health in Hounslow against £24 three years ago.

Gadhur was sent to a mental hospital for an indefinite period after a judge decided he was unfit to stand trial.

## Police vote on death penalty

Duncan Campbell  
 Crime Correspondent

A NATIONAL referendum on the death penalty will be sought by members of the Police Federation at their annual conference next month. A vote in favour would lead to pressure on both major parties, who are anxious not to alienate the police in the run-up to a general election.

A motion proposed by the Thames Valley branch would require that the federation put its resources into a media campaign to press any future government to hold a referendum. Interest will be heightened by the fact that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is likely to be present during the debate.

The latest opinion poll on capital punishment, conducted by Mori for the News of the World, showed that 75 per cent of the public favour the death penalty in some circumstances. A large majority supports capital punishment for the murder of police officers on duty.

Capital punishment has always had the support of the rank-and-file of the Police Federation, but in recent years the leadership has seen a debate on the issue as a diversion, since free votes in the House of Commons have all resulted in defeat.

They have concentrated their energies instead on a campaign to ensure that police killers remain inside for life. However, the idea of a referendum may appeal in the current climate because it would force both parties to say that they would not be willing to trust the issue to the public.

Other issues to be debated at the conference, which starts in Scarborough on May 14, include a proposal from the Hampshire branch to treat the cultivation of more than 20 cannabis plants the same as an intention to supply drugs. This would lead to a change in cannabis seeds.

A motion calling for a change in the law on "stalking", or persistent harassment, is certain to be passed.

Devon and Cornwall police are seeking a change in the way which disciplinary records of an officer's past disciplinary record could not automatically be brought up in court by the defence. They cite the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act as a basis for such a change.

A warning that Britain's policing is in danger of being controlled by the private security industry will be made by David French, chairman of the Constables Committee, which represents 60,000 officers in England and Wales, out of a total force of 126,000.

## Convicted man 'lacked gun expertise'

Court of Appeal told girlfriend's parents shot by experienced gunman in 'callous execution'

Duncan Campbell  
 Crime Correspondent

A MAN convicted of killing his girlfriend's parents did not have the expertise to fire the gun, the Court of Appeal heard yesterday.

Jonathan Jones, aged 35, had only ever handled a gun as a schoolboy 20 years earlier while the shots that killed Harry Tooze, aged 64 and his wife, Megan, aged 67, at their farmhouse in mid-Glamorgan in July 1993 had been fired by an experienced gunman.

Jones is appealing against his conviction for murder at Newport crown court in April last year by a 10-2 majority after a 50-day trial. The trial judge, Mr Justice Roughter, said in a private letter to Mr Jones's counsel: "I am bound to record that the verdict caused me some surprise."

Jones, who attended yesterday's hearing, has been supported by Cheryl Tooze, the daughter of the murdered couple. She has offered a reward of £25,000 for information leading to the conviction of the "real killers".

The Toozes were both shot in the back of the head with a shotgun from a distance of 100 yards. Jones told the jury that he was sitting with Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Gage.

"They were, in short, executed," said Mr Rees. "Both were killed in identical fashion in the most callous way."

Jones's only experience of handling guns had been at the age of 13 or 14 when he attended a naval base.

The "photocopy" similarity of the two shootings indicated that the gunman knew exactly what he was doing. Mrs Tooze had been trying to escape when she was shot.

The prosecution case had been that Jones, from Orpington in Kent, killed the Toozes because he believed that through Cheryl he would inherit up to £150,000 which would help fund a market research business. The defence had argued that Jones had no such motive and had been in Orpington looking at office property at the time of the murder.

Mr Rees said that the shootings would have meant that the killer was covered in blood and brain tissue but no scientific evidence linked Jones to the bodies.

Jones always wore his spectacles because of his poor eyesight but minute examination by police forensic scientists had found no traces of blood on them. Wash basins at his house had been dismantled but still no evidence linked him to the shootings.

Fresh evidence would show that Jones's alibi, which had been challenged in the trial, was genuine.

Mr Tooze, who also attended the hearing, had given evidence in the trial and had been "unfairly



Cheryl Tooze and Jonathan Jones before his murder arrest

## Suspended prison term for gas death landlord

A LANDLORD was yesterday given an 18-month suspended sentence at Sheffield crown court after admitting the manslaughter of one of his tenants who died of carbon monoxide poisoning from a faulty gas fire.

In a case believed to be the first of its kind in Britain, Thomas Beedie of Cottingham, Hull, admitted killing Tracey Murphy, aged 19. She was found dead in her flat in Pearson Park, Hull, on November 30, 1993.

Beedie changed his plea on Friday after more than two days of legal argument.

The Health and Safety Executive had prosecuted Beedie in 1994, when he was found guilty of failing to maintain the gas fire. He and his wife were each fined £1,500.

In July 1994 Beedie was taken to court by Hull city council and was found guilty of 15 offences under the Housing Regulations Act. He received a two year conditional discharge and was ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

A jury at the inquest into Miss Murphy's death in September 1994 ruled that she had been unlawfully killed.

Sentencing Beedie at Sheffield crown court yesterday, Mr Justice Clarke said he should have been prosecuted for manslaughter at the same time as the previous two prosecutions, and it was because of these exceptional circumstances that he was receiving a suspended sentence.

The court was told Beedie's "lack of responsibility and neglect" led to Miss Murphy's death.

Beedie, aged 47, had not serviced the gas fires in his 18 bedsits and flats in Pearson Park since they were installed nine years before.

Roger Keen, QC, prosecuting, said: "The lack of responsibility and neglect on his part killed his tenant."

"Just like any landlord he was under a duty to maintain and repair his premises and to ensure the safety of his tenants. He failed in that duty and it was an obvious risk that it is clear that he

## Law Society challenger fights 'forces of darkness'

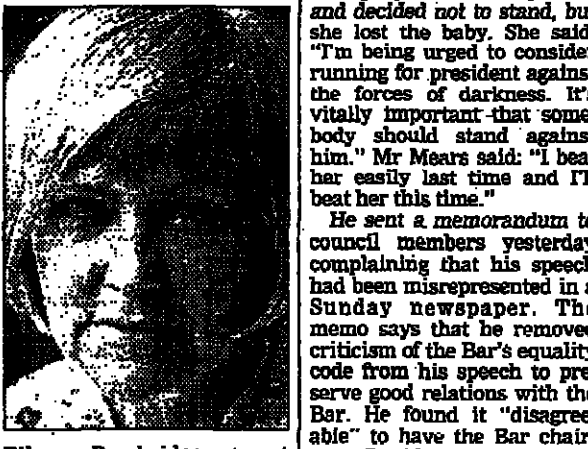
Claire Dyer  
 Legal Correspondent

THE bitter factional battle at the Law Society gained momentum yesterday when Eileen Pembridge, the most vocal opponent of the president Martin Mears, revealed that she was considering running against him again this year.

Ms Pembridge, once described by Mr Mears as "the most dangerous feminist in England", said she was also considering suggestions faxed to her office yesterday that she should report him to the Solicitors Complaints Bureau for bringing the profession into disrepute.

Mr Mears angered a women lawyers' conference at the weekend when he denied that women suffered prejudice in the legal profession and suggested that zealots had made men the victim of discrimination.

He attacked "disrespectful zealots who thrive on grievances and heresy hunt-



Eileen Pembridge: "most dangerous feminist"

## Council may reject as foster parents couples who smoke

Martin Walkwright

BRITAIN'S largest local authority may extend penalties against smokers into the field of fostering and child care.

Councillors in North Yorkshire will on Thursday debate a proposal that foster parents who smoke should be rejected when non-smoking families, of otherwise equal merit, are available.

Council officials, whose best stretches from the Durham border almost to the River Humber, are concerned about the effects of passive smoking.

Peter Putwain, Liberal Democrat chairman of the social services sub-committee, said: "We are a responsible council and we must consider this as part of our approach on smoking. There will be plenty of discussion, but people are more and more aware of the harm caused by smoking, which is increasingly banned in public places."

The hung council, on which Liberal Democrats have the largest share of the seats, said the proposal was based on "common sense guidelines" which would not be obsessed by smoking to the exclusion of other considerations.

Mr Putwain said many things had to be taken into account, such as the room a family had available. "The proposal is that smoking should be one of them."

The plan is likely to face tough opposition within the council, which has a big Tory group and balancing minorities of independent and Labour councillors. The Lib Dems are also likely to be divided over how much stress should be placed on smoking when social services staff assess would-be fosterers and other carers.

Beth Graham, a Lib Dem who headed the council last year, said: "As a libertarian, I think that this is going a bit too far. There are so many health risks nowadays that it is perhaps invidious to single out smoking."

The proposal was welcomed by Action on Smoking and Health, the campaign which has concentrated its fire in recent years on passive smoking. But if it is approved by the sub-committee on Thursday, it still faces the main social services committee and the full council.

JAVICO 1350



News in brief

Greenpeace calls for PVC ban

THE environmental pressure group Greenpeace today calls for the phasing out of the water-proof plastic material PVC because of fears that it releases chemicals into the environment which disrupt the workings of normal hormones in the body. Such chemicals have been linked to reproductive problems in fish and apparent declines in sperm counts in humans. Greenpeace's report today, which is drawn from a book, Our Stolen Future, by US scientist Theo Colborn, also claims such chemicals can damage fetuses. Sue Cooper, from Greenpeace, said: "There is more than enough evidence of harm caused by hormone disrupting chemicals to take immediate action. PVC is one of the main sources of hormone disruptors and a material we can easily live without." PVC is used in furniture, car trims and interiors, and for window frames, sewage and water pipes. A spokesman for one manufacturer, the European Vikrys Corporation, which employs more than 4,000 people in its South Glamorgan and Lancashire, rejected the Greenpeace allegations. A Department of the Environment spokeswoman said research on hormone disruption had produced no evidence "so far" that PVC was involved. — Paul Brown.

Footballer jailed for assault

AN amateur footballer who punched a referee unconscious after he had been sent off yesterday jailed for 28 days. Steve Payne, aged 26, attacked John McGuire, who had to be treated in hospital, after being given the red card for abuse during a Sunday match in Dulwich Park, south-east London. Mary Walker, prosecuting, told Crompton magistrates that Payne, who had a recent conviction for wounding, had since been fined £200 by the London Football Association and banned from playing for five years. Mike Reid, defending, said feelings had been running high and Payne, from Peckham, south-east London, had felt the referee "incompetent." Payne was sentenced after admitting actual bodily harm at an earlier hearing.

Comedians' £300,000 debts

COMEDIANS Common and Ball and their wives were yesterday disqualified from being company directors for three years after the High Court in Manchester heard that the entertainers ran up debts of more than £300,000 at the height of their careers because companies formed to charge for the comics' services failed to meet PAYE and National Insurance payments. The disqualification orders were made against the comedians — real names Thomas Derbyshire and Robert Harper — and their wives Hazel and Yvonne in proceedings brought by the Insolvency Agency.

Devon faces hose curbs

PEOPLE in Devon face an extension of hosepipe bans, South West Water warned yesterday. The Reservoir near Launceston is only 99 per cent full and hosepipe bans already in force in parts of north Devon may have to be widened. The company is seeking to draw more water from the rivers Tamar and Tavy. Supplies from the river Dart, suspended last summer after a stomach bug outbreak, may also be reintroduced. — Geoffrey Gibbs



Wallace and Gromit abroad

WALLACE and Gromit, the animated heroes of Nick Park's trip Oscar triumph (above), have secured deals for the BBC with 28 overseas broadcasters, the corporation announced yesterday. Worldwide Television said the third film in the trilogy, A Close Shave, which attracted 10.5 million viewers for its first TV showing in Britain, had been sold to broadcasters in Germany, Italy and the US. It has also been licensed to 20 airlines, including Quantas, KLM and Virgin. — Andrew Culf

'Dangerous man' on the run

POLICE warned the public last night not to approach a "dangerous" man who escaped from a mental hospital. Ian Deans, 27, from Durham, who fled Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield, on Sunday, was on remand from Newcastle and Durham crown court. Police said he is "desperate to stay out of prison."

Three sisters end house feud

THREE daughters yesterday agreed to end their legal battle to evict their mother from the family home, willed to them by their grandfather. Widow Megan Swanson, 71, who had been given notice to quit her home of 13 years, will keep her house in Oldham, Greater Manchester, under the terms of settlement a court heard. The agreement, ending a two year wrangle between Mrs Swanson and daughters, Elaine Nixon, Valerie Hunter and Lorraine Talbot, came before the parties appeared at Salford county court, Manchester.

Triple killer found dead in cell

A CONVICTED triple killer was found dead yesterday in his cell. Andrew Gentle, 58, from Glasgow, had been serving two life sentences for murder and eight years for attempted murder at Greenock prison, Strathclyde. In 1982, Gentle was found guilty of stabbing a woman to death and then strangling his accomplice, Ian Wadell, while they were on the run after the murder of Josephine Chipperfield. Gentle had previously been jailed in 1969 for eight years for culpable homicide, and was released in 1975. A fatal accident inquiry will be held.

Coma woman allowed to die

HIGH Court judge Sir Stephen Brown yesterday gave an unnamed health authority the right to allow a woman in a coma for the past eight years to die with dignity. The 33-year-old woman has been in a persistent vegetative state since contracting a mysterious viral illness. Sir Stephen was told by Robert Francis, QC, for the health authority, that the woman, who is fed by tubes, has reflex movements and that she is to all intents and purposes brain dead.

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Jester fights on to raise a laugh at summer festival in aid of peace in Sarajevo



JONATHAN KAY is a professional jester having a seriously unfunny week, writes Maeve Kennedy. Today he will learn from Winchester council whether he still has a licence to fill this huge natural amphitheatre (with 500 metres and arts enthusiasts and a live satellite link to Sarajevo in two months' time. Negotiations continued yesterday to secure a headline act for the proposed three day festival of music, circus and theatre over the last weekend in June. Mr Kay, who describes himself as the last full-time licensed jester in England, has never been involved in anything on this scale before. At home in Winchester he has been running a Hat Fair, the oldest English street theatre festival for over 20 years. When he met the original organisers of the Isle of Wight festival, Ray and Bill Fouik, the germ of a bigger idea was born. They secured a five year agreement to use a 350 acre site at Chilcomb Down just outside Winchester. It seemed made for a big outdoor festival. Its natural amphitheatre and peace developments in Sarajevo and fund arts events in the Hampshire area. PHOTOGRAPH SEAN SMITH

Doctors snub hospital jobs

Trusts cannot fill gap left by consultants quitting early



Doctors at large... wards face a dearth of consultants

FOUR out of five hospitals are having difficulties in recruiting consultants and junior doctors with some adverts attracting no responses or only poor quality candidates, a report from the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts says today. Particular problems exist in accident and emergency, psychiatry, anaesthetics, paediatrics and orthopaedics. The British Medical Association said the report reinforced its findings that many consultants were seeking early retirement and younger doctors looking for jobs abroad or outside of medicine. The report says that 79 per cent of the 174 trusts which responded to its survey were having difficulties finding consultants. "The problems ranged from repeated advertisements to a nil response or a poor field of candidates — sometimes only one." The main reasons were a failure of national planning, a high fall-out rate among doctors training for consultant posts, and inflexibility in

granting work permits to overseas doctors. It also says there should be an expansion of "sub-consultant" posts, where experienced juniors do much of the routine work of consultants as a full-time career, rather than progressing to consultant status. Many health authorities relied on overseas doctors to fill unpopular specialties, but changes to immigration laws have made work permits harder to obtain. It is European doctors rather than those from Commonwealth countries who are appointed. The report says that 83 per cent of trusts are having difficulties recruiting junior doctors because of high drop-out

especially if they are dealt with in isolation as has often been the case in the past." James Johnson, chairman of the BMA's consultants committee, said: "This report confirms what we have been saying for some time. People are so braced off they are leaving the service." Mr Johnson said government claims that consultant numbers were being expanded at the rate of 10 per cent a year were false, with the real figure being around 3 per cent. Increasing the number of sub-consultant posts would be a disaster. "We would be offering a cheap service of poor quality. It would be a second rate service giving second rate care to patients." A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said numerous initiatives had been launched to improve the recruitment and retention of doctors, including research into why juniors dropped out of training and the creation of a Specialist Workforce Advisory Group. "There has been a steady increase in the number of consultants in recent years, with a 25 per cent increase between 1984 and 1994." "Given the variety of career paths it will never be possible to ensure a perfect match between supply and demand."

East Anglia looks to Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia, Italy, Spain, Singapore and India

ALAN WATKINS HOSPITAL in East Anglia faced the possibility of cancelling operations before it turned overseas to recruit almost 20 per cent of its consultants. The James Paget hospital at Gorleston, Norfolk, persuaded 10 consultants to move to Britain after failing to attract UK applicants. Pat Mullen, medical staffing manager, said: "There is no doubt that without international recruitment we would have been in a critical situation." "The lifting of restrictions on consultancy posts and the establishment of so many trusts created many vacancies and there were insufficient numbers to meet that demand." "Hospitals not in the main geographical areas found themselves in great difficulties and we took the decision to try and recruit overseas." The hospital, serving a basic population of 220,000, which doubles during the summer because of holiday-makers Great Yarmouth, also employs 15 German doctors in junior posts and all eight of the current vocational training vacancies are occupied by Dutchmen. In all cases, said Mrs Mullen, appointments were made to specific standards and all staff had to meet the same criteria of medical training and understanding as British-born doctors. The trust has not offered incentive packages, although they meet the cost of return air fares and accommodation for all those short-listed. On appointment they also receive relocation packages. Among consultants currently employed at the hospital are two anaesthetists from South Africa and one from Sri Lanka, radiology and orthopaedic specialists from Australia and Italy, a consultant radiologist from Spain, a gastroenterology specialist from Singapore and two surgeons from India, one a neurologist. Mrs Mullen said: "Far from creating difficulties, we believe it has been an ideal solution. Many of the consultants have brought to our medicine the specific skills and teaching practices of another country and we believe that all our staff have benefited." "The hospital plans to extend recruitment to other areas of the world, including Canada, America, New Zealand and Hong Kong."

Nurses demand special treatment as NHS elite

DAVID BRINDLE, Social Services Correspondent NURSES yesterday staked a claim to special treatment from the present and future governments as they gave a health minister a hostile reception at the Royal College of Nursing's annual congress. John Bowis, junior health minister, was jeered and heckled as he sought to defend the Government's record on the NHS and on nurses' pay in particular. RON leaders told the congress in Bournemouth that they were seeking to set qualified nurses apart from the

rest of the health workforce. They published a list of 28 demands for an incoming government to meet. Betty Kershaw, college president, said: "Nurses cannot be treated like other health care workers because we aren't like other health care workers." "The RCN's effort to portray its 300,000 qualified membership as an elite stems from last year's NHS pay dispute. The college was outmanoeuvred by Unison, the biggest health union, which forced through a deal making all health workers except doctors subject to the same pay mechanism. Under the mechanism, the

unions have accepted the principle of local pay determination in return for a safety net arrangement." Ms Kershaw said nurses were bound by the Unions' brokered deal this year, but the RCN had not accepted local pay. "This is the Royal College of Nursing. It isn't and never will be a royal college of health workers." With congress holding an emergency debate today on whether the nurses' pay review body has any role left, college leaders are looking at new ideas for a pay machinery for qualified nurses alone. The RCN wants nurses to have the kind of treatment accorded to doctors.

Ms Kershaw said: "We deliver 80 per cent of patient care. Our views matter." In response to the college's separatist stance, Bob Abberley, Unison's head of health, said: "This is a time for unity, not throwing stones." "We don't want to see any one part of the team being wholly away from any other part. The NHS succeeds when all the elements — doctors, nurses, health care assistants, therapists and managers — work together for the benefit of patients." Harriet Harman, shadow health secretary, and Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat health spokesman, were well

received by congress. Mr Bowis said he had been to enough union conferences to know to expect delegates to make their views forcefully known. The 26 demands, set out in a "national health manifesto", called for the re-establishment of national pay determination for registered nurses, the end of short-term contracts for nurses and an annual review of financial support for nursing students. For patients, the list demands a guaranteed end to trolley waits in casualty departments, a legal right of treatment on a ward with patients of the same sex and publication of national stan-

dards for entitlement to long-term nursing care. One in 10 hospital catches an infection while in hospital, figures released yesterday show, prompting nurses to urge hospitals to disclose their infection rates as an incentive for improvement. The RCN claims that hospital infections cost the NHS millions of pounds a year. Nurses at the congress said local monitoring was not enough cases of infection should be notified to a central body. They blamed the "silent epidemic" on an increase in antibiotic-resistant infections, fewer isolation units and growing pressure on the health service.

Lilley may close benefits advice line

PATRICK WINTOUR, Chief Political Correspondent THE Government is considering closing a free telephone advice service used by more than three million people, mainly pensioners, a leaked internal Department of Social Security memo shows. The national Freeline service, operated from 11 DSS centres, is intended to give impartial and expert advice about benefit entitlement. The service is seen by claimant groups as one of the most effective sources of official advice, especially for those who find it physically difficult to travel to a benefit

office. It also offers advice in Welsh, Punjabi, Urdu and Chinese. Senior Benefits Agency staff have been forbidden to reveal the existence of the document, but a copy has been passed to the shadow social security secretary, Chris Smith, who described it as "a classic own goal. It is incredible that the Government is considering axing a real lifeline for millions of poor, elderly and vulnerable people." The paper, marked restricted, shows that the Government is considering transferring staff currently working on the Freeline line into the normal benefit service. The DSS memo says: "Presuming Freeline was to

close please profile how staff could be absorbed over the 96-97 financial year into your District-Business Unit against anticipated vacancies. As staff leave, so the Freeline budget would be withdrawn." Transfer of the advice service to the DSS's 156 districts would involve more than 100 extra phone calls per working day to already hard-pressed local offices. Mr Smith's office pointed out yesterday that Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, told benefit managers in February that one of the best ways to cut the 290 billion social security budget and reduce administrative time was to get claimants to provide the correct information

first time — the prime goal of Freeline. Mr Smith intends to raise the future of the service with Mr Lilley in the Commons today. Mr Lilley may reply that existence of the memo does not mean the service will definitely close. However, Mr Smith said it was incredible that the Government was even considering shutting the service, since it had kept open a motorway ones hot line for three years, even though virtually no one was making use of it. Staff unions claim the closure of the service would save less than £250,000, largely because staff would have to be redeployed elsewhere.

Race reports must be fair, Wakeham tells newspapers

ANDREW CULF, Media Correspondent LORD Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, yesterday warned newspapers that offensive treatment of racial minorities would not be tolerated. He said the commission had raised journalistic standards during its five-year existence. "What simply raised eyebrows in the 1950s would today bring down a ton of bricks on any editor who allowed his or her newspaper to flout the central tenets of our code of practice." He told the Commission for Racial Equality's fourth

annual Race in the Media awards at the Savoy, London: "Readers today simply won't tolerate newspapers that treat racial minorities in an offensive manner — and nor will I." He admitted that practice still existed and some readers did not believe it was worth making a complaint. The Guardian's Maya Jaggi unanimously won the national newspaper category in the Race in the Media awards for the quality and insight of her arts features on ethnic minority writers. The judges said: "This journalist's work uncovers the hopes and aspirations of some of the most influential ethnic minority writers today."



# Defiant Berlusconi claims votes

John Hooper in Rome

**S**ILVIO Berlusconi claimed last night that his losing right-wing alliance had won more votes than in the previous election for the lower house of the Italian parliament in Sunday's general election.

Speaking at a press conference at his home outside Milan, the media tycoon said his Freedom Alliance took 50,000 more votes in polling for the chamber of deputies. Final results were still coming in last night, but his claim was backed by Rome University's electoral observatory.

The director, Gianni Statera, said its figures showed the right had taken 41 per cent, compared with 43.3 per cent for the centre-left Olive

Tree alliance and the orthodox Marxists of Communist Refoundation.

The Olive Tree alliance had a clear edge in seats and votes in the senate. With at least 157 seats, and the expected support of several life senators, it will not need the votes of the Communists in the upper house.

One of the most significant consequences of the ballot was that the federalist Northern League lost its grip on the balance of power — at least for the moment.

After driving a punishing bargain with Mr Berlusconi before the last election two years ago, the League emerged from the 1994 poll with 117 seats in the chamber of deputies, the largest number of any party. It was this which enabled its maverick leader, Umberto Bossi, to bring down Mr

Berlusconi after seven months of fractious partnership.

But Mr Bossi's decision to abandon Mr Berlusconi prompted the defection of almost a third of his own MPs, and yesterday's results reduced the League's tally in the lower house to 58. This, however, was a far better result than predicted.

It had been thought that the League, which refused to join either of the two big blocs, would be crushed between them — a fate common to third parties in an electoral system dominated by first-past-the-post rules.

Under the Italian system, a quarter of the seats in parliament are filled by proportional representation, but the remaining three quarters are decided by straight majority. The League did particularly well in the key Veneto battle-

ground in the north-east, where it took 19 of the 50 seats.

For the moment, however, it looks far more likely that the Olive Tree and its leader, Romano Prodi, will count on help from Communist Refoundation to give it a majority in the lower house. But that could be a strained relationship.

Communist Refoundation, under the leadership of Fausto Bertinotti, has taken a hard line on several issues that could bring it into conflict with Olive Tree moderates.

It opposes the way the European Union is developing and, particularly, economic and monetary union. It is opposed to any further reduction in Italy's bloated pensions system.

It is in favour of reintroducing the defunct system of index-linked salary increases which is widely blamed for Italy's once high inflation rate.

But the seeds of controversy were also sown on the right. The leader of one of two small Christian Democrat parties in Mr Berlusconi's alliance blamed the former neo-fascist leader, Gianfranco Fini, for forcing the election.

The Christian Democrats were immediately wooed by the outgoing prime minister, Lamberto Dini, who threw in his lot with the centre-left. Mr Fini was also expected to come in for criticism from his own party for losing votes to a new ultra-right group led by the veteran neo-fascist Pino Rauti.

Leftwing and social democratic parties across Europe welcomed the result. "This first victory for the left in the history of the Italian Republic is of European significance," said Peter Schieder, foreign affairs spokesman for Austria's Social Democrats.

## Left in the driving seat



**ROMANO PRODI**... In an interview published shortly before Sunday's poll, the economics professor who is poised to head Italy's next government was asked what he would most like to change about himself. He said he would prefer to be nastier, to silence detractors who have claimed his amiable disposition ill-fits him for the rough-and-tumble of Italy's politics.

Aged 56, he is one of his country's leading economists and a former chairman of the state holding company, IRI. Before entering politics last year, he lived and worked in Bologna, where he ran an economic forecasting consultancy and taught at the university.

A devout Catholic, one of his roles in the election was to pull in Italy's moderate vote. He could also boast a past as one of the country's few successful privatisers, having sold off several IRI subsidiaries during his stint as chairman from 1982 to 1989 and again from 1992 to 1994. His political opponents claimed he had fired more people than anyone else standing in the election.

Mr Prodi was born near Reggio Emilia in the prosperous north-central region of Emilia Romagna. He graduated in economics from Milan's Catholic University and later studied at the London School of Economics. He married a childhood friend, Flavia Franzoni, with whom he has two sons, aged 21 and 24.

In 1974 he spent a year as a visiting professor at Harvard, returning to Italy to become chairman of the Il Mulino publishing house.

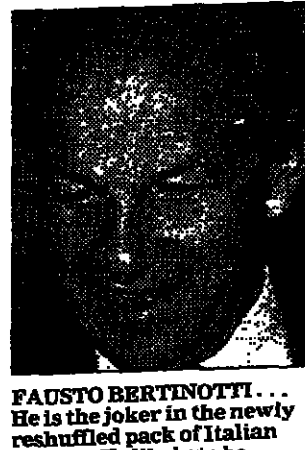
His only previous experience of government was as industry minister in a short-lived government of Giulio Andreotti. He held the portfolio for just five months between 1978 and 1979.



**MASSIMO D'ALEMA**... He beat Mr Veltroni to the PDS leadership in 1994, succeeding Achille Occhetto.

Mr D'Alema refused to put himself up against Silvio Berlusconi — as Mr Occhetto did with catastrophic results — choosing instead to field a political novice with a jovial persona.

Not even his friends would call him affable. He is better known for his intelligence and sardonic wit.



**FAUSTO BERTINOTTI**... He is the joker in the newly reshuffled pack of Italian politics. Unlikely to be allowed anywhere near the cabinet, he will still play a key role in shaping its policies because as the leader of Communist Refoundation he has the power to bring it down.

After the formation of the PDS, he joined the breakaway Communist Refoundation in 1993 and was elected its secretary the following year.



**WALTER VELTRONI**... It was no coincidence that when Professor Prodi claimed victory on Sunday night, the man standing at his shoulder was Mr Veltroni. The 40-year-old editor of the formerly Communist daily, L'Unita, has been the link man between the Prodi camp and the PDS since the start of the professor's campaign for the premiership, and is likely to become deputy prime minister.

## Forging alliances

### Left and centre

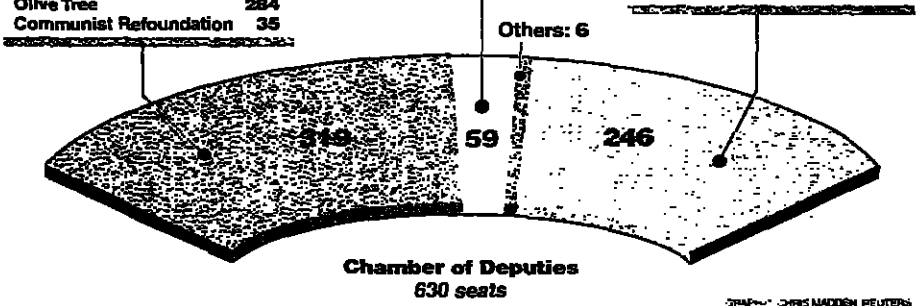
With the support of the hard-line Communists, Romano Prodi and his centre-left Olive Tree alliance can enjoy an outright majority in the Lower House.

### Northern League

The Northern League, which had expected to hold the balance of seats, will not after all be a power broker.

### Freedom Alliance

Led by media magnate and former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, its two main partners are Berlusconi's own Forza Italia and the far-right National Alliance.



# Jet-propelled gurus vow to lift spirits of weary Sarajevans

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

**B**OSNIA is beginning to experience one of the iron rules of 20th century conflict: after the bullets and the bombs come the gurus.

The peace treaty and the lifting of the Sarajevo siege have opened the doors to the good, the bad and the spiritually unorthodox. The capital in particular is becoming a popular destination for mystics in loose-fitting clothes looking for answers.

George McMillian is one of the new arrivals. He is a half-Comanche native American from California who — after long phases as a Sikh and a Buddhist — now describes himself as "a sort of Tantric Catholic".

Mr McMillian felt compelled to travel to Sarajevo after experiencing a vision of Bosnia's suffering while driving past a civil war monument outside Nashville, Tennessee, last year. His mission is to set up a sound temple where Bosnians of different faiths can come to pray, chant and hum.

According to a letter he has sent to Sarajevo's Muslim, Orthodox and Catholic leaders, the temple would allow all faiths to "bring together their unique positive strength to create a still point of hope and love in a world traumatised and in despair".

The soft-spoken 46-year-old with a mustache and a guitar may come from the benign end of the guru spectrum, but more insidious cults are on the way this summer, according to Sarajevo's Muslim, Orthodox and Catholic leaders.



Holding the line... Nordic I-For soldiers guard the crowded Spreca bridge near the northern Bosnian town of Doboj. Muslim and Croat refugees flocked to the bridge hoping to revisit their old homes, but were blocked by Serbs. The Nato troops fired into the air to break up scuffles. UN workers and Nato officers accused all factions of encouraging clashes by leading refugees to towns from which they had been expelled.

Bosnian conflict was fuelled by bad diet and constipation — and mediums offering to get bereft families in touch with the spirits of their dead.

Shell-shocked Sarajevo is potentially fertile ground for the guru. Over the weekend a "Festival of India" — which turned out to be a recruiting drive for the Hare Krishna movement — attracted nearly a thousand young Bosnians.

But the influx of spiritual alternatives is also creating friction in a country where religious identity has been etched into popular consciousness by four years of ethnic conflict. About 50 newly arrived Hare Krishna devotees were attacked on Friday when their singing, cymbal-clashing procession collided with Muslims emerging from a Sarajevo mosque.

Four Hare Krishna members were injured, including two Britons, Colin Campbell and Toren Wilson, who were taken to hospital with knife wounds. The British consulate in Sarajevo said yesterday that Mr Wilson had already been discharged and was on his way back to Britain, while Mr Campbell was in a stable condition.

As the symbol and media focus of the conflict, Sarajevo has long been a magnet for sects and cults, but until the December peace accord the siege of the city acted as a filter, blocking the more bizarre war tourists.

An attempt by a gang of leather-jacketed bikers to enter the city was foiled when Serb policemen confiscated the souped-up motorcycles they had hoped to ride up and

down Sarajevo's notorious Sniper Alley, performing wheelies.

Similarly, an aid convoy donated and accompanied by west European transvestites got no further than the (presumably mystified) Serb forces ringing the capital.

Now, in the post-war confusion, it is easier for holders of west European or US passports to enter Bosnia than any other country in the region.

Many of the young Sarajevans who packed the Festival of India said the war had left them disillusioned with the established religions — Islam, the Serb Orthodox Church and Catholicism — whose leaders they accused of helping deepen Bosnia's ethnic divides.

Alma Duran, a 19-year-old from a Muslim family who now wears a Hare Krishna sari, said her generation "see how religion has been manipulated by the state, the army and the police".

Sarajevo youth may be embracing Hare Krishna, but the city has shown no signs of being ready for a "sound temple". Mr McMillian is still waiting, two weeks on, for a reply to his letter offering Bosnia's religious leaders a focus for their unique positive strength.

Meanwhile, he has decided to begin a fast to seek guidance on what to do next.

"If the powers that be won't allow me to make a sound temple, I will be the sound temple," he said. He would continue the fast, he said, "till I get an answer. Till I know it's going to be OK".

## With memoirs, Mitterrand gives his side of the story

Paul Webster in Paris

**A** VOICE from the grave joins the defence of Francois Mitterrand today with the publication of the late president's *Mémoires Interrompus* and a second book rebutting suggestions that he mishandled French foreign policy after German reunification.

Mitterrand, who retired as president nearly a year ago, worked almost until the day of his death in January on the memoirs, based on interviews with a journalist, Georges-Marc Benamou. The work concentrates on the more controversial episodes in his career, including his time as a civil servant with the collaborationist government during the second world war.

The book is expected to dethrone the current French bestseller, the memoirs of Mitterrand's widow, Danielle. Both contribute to a growing industry intended to establish an official version of his life in the face of a flood of critical literature.

A foundation is being set up by the Mitterrand family, including his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine, to protect against further revelations and to pursue any legal action.

The most emphatic rebuttals in *Mémoires Interrompus* concern the war years when Mitterrand, a lawyer, was decorated for his loyalty to the Vichy leader, Philippe Pétain. Responding to accusations that he associated with anti-Semitic collaborators, the late president writes that he was unaware of anti-Jewish laws when he arrived from a German POW camp in March 1942. On discovering the extent of persecution, he "morally and physically broke with the mediocre system that was to reveal itself as criminal".

The second book, *De l'Allemagne, de la France*, (Concerning Germany and France), reflects Mitterrand's resentment at allegations that he mishandled the cold war aftermath and failed to construct appropriate foreign policy.

Taken together, the books' most striking effect comes from the cover photographs. Mitterrand is pictured as a handsome young man on *Mémoires Interrompus* and as a weathered veteran on the foreign policy essay.

Le Monde's cartoonist Plantu goes further, showing six Mitterrands of various ages breaking into a conversation between President Jacques Chirac and Marianne to announce: "Ah, come to think of it. I forgot to tell you something

## Greece investigates baby-selling scandal

Helena Smith in Athens

**G**REECE has launched an official inquiry into illegal adoptions, amid reports that thousands of toddlers were sold to families in home and abroad in the 30 years after the second world war.

The Socialist government ordered the investigation under mounting pressure from victims of the alleged baby-selling scheme. Since the scandal erupted last year, many Greeks, especially in the United States, have begun to seek their real identities. Many have discovered their roots via the Internet.

"We have all the evidence in the world to prove that this illicit practice took place," said Marianna Faithfull, who helped set up the Association for the Search for Children Adopted Without the Consent of their Natural Parents.

"We want the government to recognise this in writing and to finally amend Greece's antiquated adoption laws

Otherwise, we will take our case to the European Court of Human Rights."

The victims say they were parted from their families after being falsely declared dead a few days after they were born. Most had been handed over to institutions on a temporary basis by impoverished parents.

Doctors, priests, nurses and lawyers are all believed to have played an active part in the racket.

Evangelos Venizelos, the justice minister, said orphanage files would be opened up: "There will be no more secrecy surrounding this issue."

In recent months records at the municipal orphanage in the western city of Patras have revealed that up to 5,000 children were illegally adopted between the 1930s and 1970s.

Ms Faithfull, who recently traced her own family, said most of the toddlers ended up being bought for a "handsome fee" by Americans.

Campaigners said real headway could be made only

if Greece's antiquated adoption laws were overhauled. Although public institutions no longer face allegations of impropriety, there is a widespread belief that adoption scams are still rife at private hospitals and in church-run refuges.

Last week a priest running a centre for single mothers in northern Greece was prosecuted for allegedly forcing a young woman to sell her baby to a rich family.

"Private adoptions have to be banned because they have clearly encouraged baby-selling rackets," Ms Faithfull said. "A lot of east Europeans and young Greek mothers have been found selling their babies for around 20 million drachmas (555,000) at private hospitals in Athens."

Officials at the health ministry have blamed the practice on an unusually long waiting lists of people wishing to adopt. Greece's birthrate has fallen dramatically over the past decade. Experts blame atmospheric pollution for the declining fertility rate.

## News in brief

### Greece 'shot at Turkish boat'

A Greek coastguard vessel opened fire on a Turkish fishing boat off Turkey's southern coast early yesterday, slightly wounding one fisherman, Turkish officials said.

The Turkish foreign ministry said it would protest to Athens, Turkey and Greece almost came to blows in January over a group of uninhabited islets in the Aegean Sea. — Reuter.

### Dissident arrested

Li Hai, a Chinese dissident and philosophy student active in the 1989 democracy movement, has been arrested and charged with leaking state secrets, his mother said yesterday. — Reuter.

### Anti-US bombs

Two explosive devices were thrown at the American Centre in Lahore, the capital of the central Pakistan province of Punjab, early yesterday, causing slight damage, police said. — Reuter.

### Mitsubishi protest

Mitsubishi shut down its assembly line in Illinois yesterday and sent 60 husbands of

### Dutch air crash

One of the two occupants of a small private plane was killed when the aircraft smashed into the Fokker aircraft plant in the Dutch town of Hoogeveen yesterday, the regional fire department said. — AP.

### Kurd rebels killed

Turkish security forces killed 21 Kurdish rebels on Sunday in clashes in southeast Turkey, security sources said yesterday. The regional governor's office in Diyarbakir said 48 members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party had been killed in four days of fighting in Bingol province. — Reuter.

### Rabies in Poland

A rabies epidemic caused largely by an overpopulation of foxes is spreading among animals in Poland, public television reported. It said there were 700 hot spots, with the southern province of Radom worst affected and new cases reported every day. — Reuter.

## Ex-PM's spy case dropped

Reuters in Warsaw

**T**he Polish prosecutor looking into allegations that a former prime minister, Jozef Oleksy, spied for Moscow said yesterday he would not proceed as the evidence was inadequate.

"Today I decided to drop this case," the military prosecutor, Slawomir Gorzkiewicz, said.

Mr Oleksy has consistently denied the allegations, levelled by Poland's UOP security service and announced to parliament by the outgoing interior minister, Andrzej Milczanowski, in December.

Mr Milczanowski said the UOP had evidence that Mr Oleksy knowingly informed for foreign intelligence from before the fall of communism in 1989 until early 1996, when he was speaker of parliament. It later emerged Mr Milczanowski meant Soviet and Russian intelligence.

"There were no grounds established to lay charges against anyone in this case,"

said the prosecutor, adding that the UOP's evidence was at best circumstantial and contained errors.

Mr Oleksy, once a senior communist, resigned as prime minister on January 24 when prosecutors launched a three-month investigation. The future shook the ruling coalition of Mr Oleksy's ex-communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) and a peasant party, which only after tough negotiations formed a reshuffled cabinet under the SLD's Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz.

The affair broke just before the former president Lech Walesa, once the Solidarity union leader, handed over to his ex-communist foe Aleksander Kwasniewski, who had narrowly beaten him in November elections.

Mr Oleksy called the allegations a "ridiculous provocation" by pro-Walesa UOP officers, and admitted only to an innocent acquaintance with a Warsaw-based Moscow diplomat who later proved to be an intelligence officer.

صكتان الامل

More than 100 Afghan flood

US battle

cut off by pin

mine talks recog

Bulgaria to close

Looking for lowest price

500 333



News in brief

More than 100 killed in Afghan floods

MORE than 100 people have been killed in heavy flooding in Afghanistan, relief workers said yesterday. At least seven provinces, covering more than a quarter of the country, have been affected by the floods brought on by melting snow and heavy rains, a worker from an international relief agency said.

Report calls for fish farms

VAST fish and shellfish farms are needed to satisfy world demand because of the over-exploitation and decline of natural fish populations, says an International Food Policy Research Institute report published today.

Crime costs US billions

CRIME is costing the United States \$450 billion (\$300 billion) a year, says a report commissioned by the justice department in an attempt to calculate the intangible cost to victims of child abuse and domestic violence as well as murder, rape and robbery.

Four confess to Riyadh blast

FOUR Saudis confessed on state television yesterday to last year's car bombing of a US-run military training centre in Riyadh and said they had been planning further attacks.

Fires rage across Mongolia

FOREST fires have raged out of control in north-eastern Mongolia for a third week, leaving burnt-out nomadic tent villages and charred cattle carcasses.

Jaffna cut off by pincer

SRI LANKAN forces thrusting deep into Tamil Tiger rebel territory in a pincer movement have virtually cut off the major Jaffna peninsula from the mainland, trapping guerrillas and residents, an army officer said yesterday.

Landmine talks reopen



CAMPAIGNERS built a mountain of almost 14,000 boots and shoes outside the United Nations Geneva headquarters yesterday to symbolise the human victims of landmines, as a two-week conference to tighten restrictions on the use of landmines began.

Bulgaria to close reactor

BULGARIA has responded to international pressure and agreed to close the oldest nuclear reactor at the Kozloduzh plant on May 15, for safety tests to be carried out. The decision was reached at a meeting of Bulgarian and Western engineers and safety experts at the end of last week in Sofia, but has not yet been announced.

China plays a 'Russia card'

In the second article of a series on President Yeltsin's visit, Andrew Higgins looks at Beijing's new hand in the game of triangular diplomacy in which it is hoping to dent US power

FORTY-FIVE minutes before Richard Nixon went on television 25 years ago to reveal a secret visit to China by Henry Kissinger, the Soviet Union received an unimpressive preview of Washington's new "China card".

China's total two-way trade with Russia last year amounted to only \$3.5 billion, with the balance in Moscow's favour. With the US, China had a surplus of \$20 billion.

Wary of what they see as an American strategy of "containment", China's leaders look to Moscow as a valuable source of weapons and technical expertise, and as a diplomatic counterweight to the US.

more than 80,000 troops. China regards America's military presence in Asia as aimed primarily at thwarting its policy on Taiwan and its emergence as a big power.

China's anti-American rhetoric echoes that used against the Soviet Union at the height of the cold war. Accusations of hegemony appear with increasing regularity. "The US will not allow the emergence of a great country on the European or Asian continents that threatens its power to dominate," said the People's Daily.

US credibility in the Middle East is at stake as Christopher fails to break the deadlock



Quietly determined... Lebanese civilians in Beirut stopped whatever they were doing yesterday as a minute's silence was observed to remember the 103 refugees who were killed last week when Israeli troops fired shells at the United Nations camp at Qana, in southern Lebanon, provoking condemnation from around the world

Clinton's diplomacy in tatters

THE crisis in the Middle East began to emerge yesterday as a diplomatic disaster for the United States, as well as a threat to the people of the region.

Syrian leader raises price of ceasefire

In the face of this onslaught, the US negotiating team were very cautious about their prospects yesterday.

Israel's naval artillery continued to shell the coastal highway between Beirut and Sidon, wounding more motorists.

One Beirut newspaper accused Mr Christopher of trying to achieve for Mr Peres politically what Israel had failed to achieve militarily.

Arafat urges changes to PLO charter

PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat convened the Palestine National Council yesterday to urge it to amend passages of the 1964 Palestine Liberation Organisation charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

669-member council to return to the self-rule areas so the meeting could take place.

Israel's offer in return for this virtual demobilisation of Hizbullah would be, as a Beirut newspaper put it, "some non-guaranteed promise to withdraw from Lebanon after nine months".

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## Land of the red olive

The centre-left victory is good for Italy

OUT OF ITALY comes news at last of a new political orbit. E pur si muove, we might say with Galileo. Italian politics are not immutable after all: the cynics are wrong and this time there is real change. The capture of the process by Silvio Berlusconi two years ago was a symbol of continuing disintegration rather than of reconstruction. The tardy process of his rule was probably necessary. The electorate still needed time to come to terms with the idea that there could be an alternative to the old firm. What finally discredited Mr Berlusconi was less the charges levelled against him personally than the suspicion that he and his ministers were trying to undermine the drive against corruption. Those voting on Sunday against the right-wing alliance joined those voting for the centre-left to tip the balance. It is triumphant confirmation at the national level (already previewed over the past two years in other elections) of a real fresh start.

Mr Berlusconi clung till the end to his belief that the grand cavalier would continue to dazzle the viewers (or voters). Now he has gone out with characteristic bad grace, sneering that "we'll all meet again abroad." Victorious Romano Prodi, who made a virtue during the campaign of not being a star performer, says (as well he might) "Thanks, Italians!" Instead of the gnarled and twisted stump of old politics, there is a young new olive tree. We don't know how much fruit it will bear, but its leaves show a healthy sheen.

Italy's "blocked democracy" of the past 50 years not only ensured that a genuine opposition could never prevail against the assumption that it would not be allowed to. It also created an atmosphere in which those who opposed the system themselves became demoralised and to a varying extent degraded. Mr Prodi presides over a new and somewhat shakily assembled force.

It is a historical irony that the "left" is now deemed to have won when it is no longer predominantly or coherently left-wing. There will be no lack of prophets warning that Mr Prodi must pay a higher price for the support of the Communist Refoundation (CR). But their alarm is a pale echo of the anti-communist propaganda which served the rightwing and its Mafia friends so well for so long. In any case Mr Prodi can strike a deal — whether with the CR or perhaps the Northern League — from a position of some numerical and psychological advantage. The financial markets have already set the tone with their judgment that this victory of the "left" will safeguard the lira and stability. So much for the red menace! This coalition is now regarded as more serious than its right-wing alternative about cutting budget deficits, privatising state companies and tightening Italy's fiscal belt to qualify for European monetary union.

Yet it remains a weakness as well as a strength for Mr Prodi to have united centre and left, catholic and secular forces. His victory is less secure in the Chamber of Deputies than in the Senate, and he may find it hard to establish a common denominator on a whole range of issues from state broadcasting to electoral reform. Nor should the Freedom Alliance — whether or not Mr Berlusconi himself implodes — be written off. The reaction of the National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini, mainly of Mr Berlusconi and self-declared former neo-fascist, has been more astute. He has conceded victory with good grace and promised vigorous opposition. Mr Fini is positioning himself for the longer term: he is a man to be watched warily. These factors could mean that the new coalition will only last for a couple of years. It is still a great victory for the Olives and a great step forward for Italy.

## Are they worth more money?

Yes, but MPs are doing the right thing for wrong reasons

RULE number one in the almanac of conventional wisdom concerning MPs' pay increases reads as follows: make a big award at the start of a Parliament so that voters will have forgotten about it by the time the next election comes. Rule two, which derives irresistibly from rule one, says: never give MPs a big pay rise just before an election if you want to be re-elected. Yet here we are within a few months of the end of a Parliament. An election looms. And what do we find? An unpopular government is contemplating a 30 per cent hike in backbenchers' pay — taking an MP's salary from £24,850 to around £45,000 before the summer. Have the long years of office finally turned their heads? By any normal logic the Conservatives would be only too delighted to pass this poisoned cup to an incoming government. Why don't they do so this time? It just doesn't make sense.

Except that, on this occasion, it does — of a sort. The readiness to contemplate a pay rise has nothing to do with any concern about appropriate rewards for legislative service. Instead it is all to do, as usual, with personal advantage. If the Conservatives lose badly next time round, a lot of long-serving Tory MPs will be out of work. Their troubled minds are turning to their post-electoral prospects and, in particular, to their pensions. The team talk is of how a big pay rise will give them a much better final salary on which to calculate their future entitlements. Tony Newton, *Leader of the Commons*,

is said to have been persuaded that Tory backbenchers deserve a reward after a miserable year and to believe that a nice rise will help keep the Government in office through to 1997. There is little doubt now that MPs will get an over-the-odds "catch-up" increase of some sort.

MPs' pay is an issue where politicians should not cringe before the altar of public opinion even though it is easy to understand why they do. British MPs are poorly paid by international standards. Their staff back-up and office conditions, though improved, remain antiquated and inadequate. They work long hours, both at Westminster and in their constituencies (though a week in which there are but a brace of two-line whips may not be the best one in which to make this case). Higher pay might deter some from taking outside consultancies. The task of getting MPs' salaries and conditions on to an appropriate footing is part of the necessary modernisation of public life, though only a part. It could usefully be considered alongside the reduction of parliamentary numbers: a house of 500 rather than the present 651 would be perfectly adequate and would save money. This will in any case become an issue if devolution and Lords reform are carried through, when fewer MPs may be necessary. They should get the money — but it would be hard to find a better case study of how MPs will probably do the right thing for all the wrong reasons.

## Suffering from tunnel vision

Private sector dogma has sold Le Shuttle short

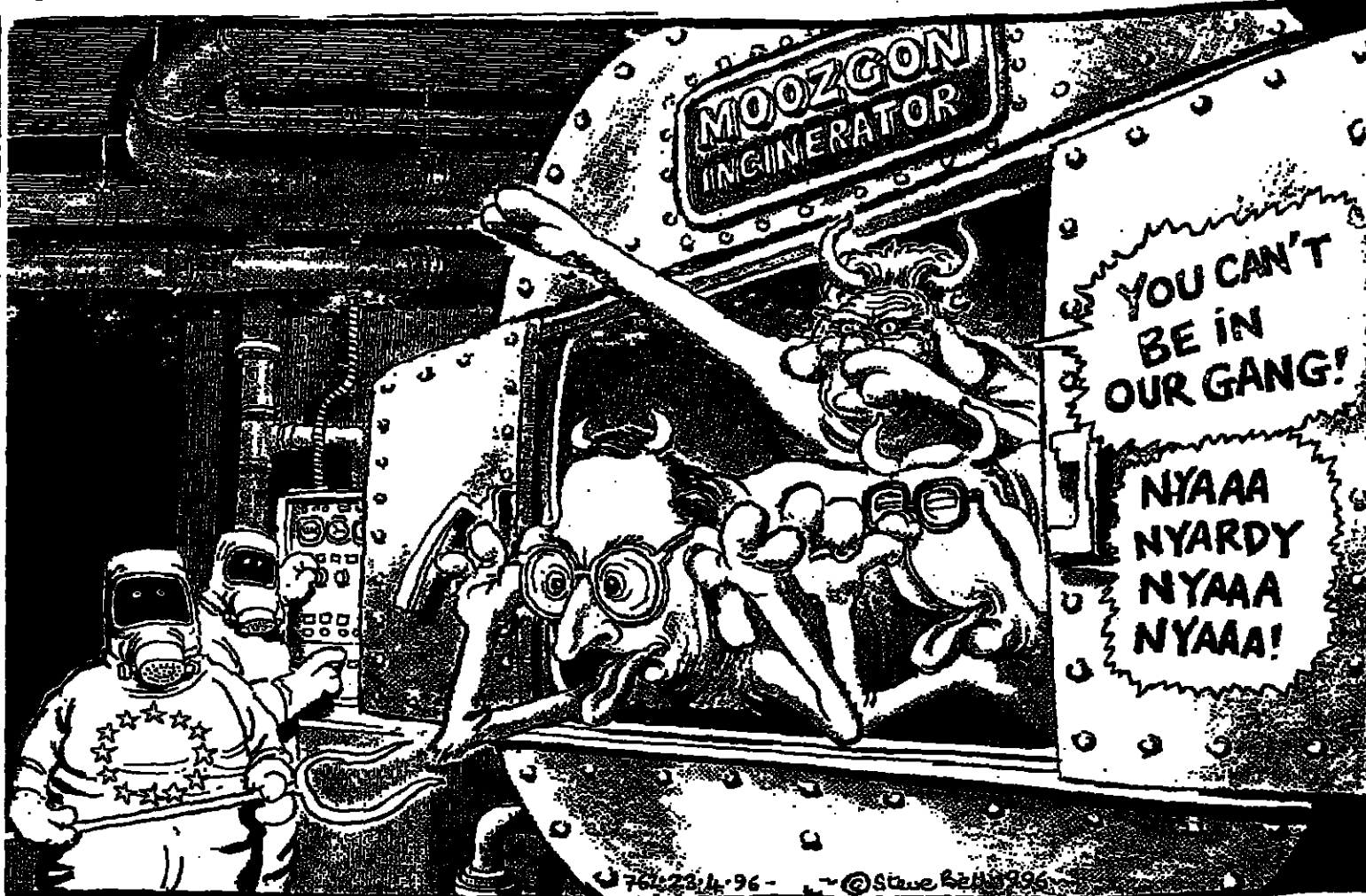
THE CHANNEL tunnel is a stupendous feat of civil engineering — but a financial disaster. Yesterday's first year losses of £295 million, on sales of £299 million, created a gap between spending and income that would have given Mr Micawber apoplexy. Even if it had, it would have lost money. Yet it has increased its share of the cross-Channel ferry market from nought to 45 per cent. Few companies anywhere are that successful in year one.

Eurotunnel's first excuse is that there isn't a level playing field. The tunnel was, rightly, lumbered with fierce safety requirements like automatic fire doors in each carriage, while ferries still don't have to install bulwarks to stabilise their wide-open car decks. Second, the fast rail link to London, making the tunnel really attractive, still hasn't been started. Third, ferries can offer cut-price tickets because they

have become vast floating duty-free shops while Le Shuttle can't sell booze on board. Ferries increased capacity while the tunnel was being built, triggering a price war that is great for the consumer but bad for Eurotunnel.

The moral is that mega-infrastructure projects can't be built profitably by the private sector. Never forget that the tunnel was to be Mrs Thatcher's proof that the private sector could do exactly that. Now, with the benefit of hindsight, the fast rail link will be well over 50 per cent financed by the taxpayer, to reflect the fact that £6 billion of "external benefits" to the community (like reduced pollution) will accrue which can't be recouped from ticket sales. If such common sense had been applied to the tunnel, it would now be well on its way to profits. Instead it suffered, and will continue to suffer, from the Government's unique form of tunnel vision.

In the 1994 Budget the Chancellor announced work-incentive measures worth almost £700 million which will help 750,000 people to move into work. Sir Norman Fowler MP, *House of Commons*, London SW1A 0AA.



## Letters to the Editor

### Those troublesome teenage years

One's subjects give their views

IN defence of his proposal to axe child benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds, Gordon Brown (Strife begins at 16, April 22) claims those who receive it "are more likely to be from the wealthy families". Hence, it is a subsidy for the school fees of the wealthy rather than an incentive to assist the education of the very poor.

This is simply not true. For many of the one million families who would lose their present entitlement, child benefit makes the difference between being able to keep their sons or daughters in further education. Gordon's proposal would drive many more families into poverty, hitting particularly vulnerable sections of society — such as single mothers — hardest.

While he claims that "25 per cent of 17-year-old pupils whose mothers receive child benefit are at private, fee-paying schools", the House of Commons Library, on the contrary, informs us that the actual proportion is around 10 per cent. If Gordon's concern is to improve the financing of post-16 education, then it would have been very simple for him to say so. Proposals for better training, education and maintenance grants for 16- to 18-year-olds would be welcomed by millions of potential Labour voters. On the

other hand, the proposal to axe child benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds will alienate them. Furthermore, Gordon's statement contradicts Labour's long-standing annual conference policy to retain child benefit in full and update its value in line with inflation. Only the Government will benefit from Gordon Brown's decision to change this policy on the hoof. We have already had the hypocritical statement by Peter Lilley that the proposal to scrap child benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds is merely the thin end of the wedge. We can be sure that the Conservatives will extract maximum political advantage from Gordon's rash error in the run-up to the general election.

More fundamentally, serious resources for investment in education, training and Britain's manufacturing base could be made available without increasing the tax burden on the vast majority of the electorate. To take the single largest potential source of funds, on the latest official figures, if the share of dividend payments in UK gross domestic product was reduced from its record level in 1984 to its level when the Conservatives came to office in 1979, £22.7 billion a year would be released for investment. Compared to that, Gordon Brown's "savings" are tiny and have

the disadvantage that they both affect a significant number of poorer families and will make it more difficult to win the next general election. We now need a clear statement by the party leadership that Labour will stand by its past pledges to retain child benefit in full and fund the necessary radical increase in spending on education, training and investment not by penalising middle-income earners but by reducing the share of the economy going to unearned income via the City. Ken Livingstone MP, Diane Abbott MP, *House of Commons*, London SW1A 0AA.

GORDON Brown quite rightly points out the unfairness of the child-benefit system by comparing the families of the unemployed 16-year-old and the £600 sixth-former. The solution to this problem is to pay child benefit for all 16- and 17-year-olds except those in employment or on YT schemes, for which they receive a training allowance. In fact there is a strong case for increasing levels of child benefit, as families on average income have fared badly under this Tory government. This could be paid for by adopting a fair progressive tax system and abolishing the married allowance which

benefits childless couples as well as families. Jackie Terry, 57 Fairfax Road, Middlesex TW11 5DA. WE should remember the origins of child benefit. There used to be tax allowances for children. Socialists campaigned against this because people who did not earn enough to pay income tax got no benefit from the state towards the cost of keeping their children. The child benefit paid to the better-off is a replacement for allowances which, in justice, they should otherwise have. Ada Tremlett, 4 Underhill Mobile Home Park, Tiverton.

THE contrast between Gordon Brown's proposal and the fact that £3.4 billion of government benefits goes unclaimed each year (Money Guardian, April 20) is a worrying reflection on the Labour leadership's priorities. A campaign should be organised in conjunction with the CAB, Child Poverty Action, the trade unions and any other interested agencies to ensure that the most needy claim their entitlement. Chris & Colin Penfold, *Commins Coch, Macynlleth, Powys SY20 8LG*.

## A poor show

THE declaration of the World Summit for Social Development focused on the need to eradicate absolute poverty: a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic needs, such as clean drinking water and adequate food supplies (Poverty, what poverty? says Lilley, April 17). As such, the recommendations made in Copenhagen relate principally to less developed countries, where the absence of these basic human needs predominates. It is just misrepresentation to suggest that this is the position in this country and other well-developed industrial nations.

Your reporter uses the numbers living below half average income or below income support levels as "proxies for poverty measures". This ignores the significant rise in real household incomes since 1979. Using the numbers living below half average income or below income support levels as a proxy for poverty creates a nonsensical situation; whenever we raise benefit rates, more people qualify for them, and so on this definition we increase poverty.

Furthermore, in any assessment of income levels it is important to consider mobility between income groups. Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies has shown that there is a considerable turnover in the membership of the lowest decile of income — hardly indicative of entrenched poverty. In addition and significantly, those people in the lowest income groups do not have the lowest standard of living when judged by expenditure.

Getting people into work and improving earnings potential is the key to improving low income. Since its peak in 1992, unemployment has fallen by 750,000. In addition, Family Credit, which I introduced, helps nearly 600,000 families to be better off in work. Independent research has shown that families receiving Family Credit are on average £23 per week better off than those unemployed and receiving Income Support.

In the 1994 Budget the Chancellor announced work-incentive measures worth almost £700 million which will help 750,000 people to move into work. Sir Norman Fowler MP, *House of Commons*, London SW1A 0AA.



## Something to chew on

YOUR report (Parents who pacify babies with dummies may nurture dummies, April 19) referred only to babies. Alas, we often see dummies in the mouths of three-year-olds. The purpose is not so much to keep them quiet as to stop them wanting to eat all the time. Being given snacks from an early

age, they get used to having something in their mouths, and the dummy prevents perpetual demands which the children have never been taught to check. It is obvious that it inhibits the natural development of speech. Olive Price, 472 Rice Lane, Liverpool L9 2BW.

## Company cars in a collision

YOUR Transport Editor's reporting of Labour's supposed policy proposals (Labour targets company cars, April 18) was misleading. Somebody sent him a copy of a document drawn up by a group involving Transport 2000 and Michael Mescher's office a long time ago. He did not contact my office to find out if he had a real leak. He then wrote an alarmist report suggesting that Labour policy would damage the car industry. This caused worry to people working in the industry.

I spoke to him the next day and told him he had been misled, and simply had the wrong document. He then wrote another story maintaining the fiction that the document had any relevance. On top of this we got an editorial saying it was a good document.

My real policy document will be made available shortly — we can then debate these issues sensibly. Clare Short MP, Shadow Transport Secretary, *House of Commons*, London SW1A 0AA.

benefit, our research shows that the tax lost from company cars is still around £1 billion a year, through evasion, abuse of the mileage "break points" and the under-taxing of free fuel for private use. All of these encourage extra driving. Indeed, the average company-car driver with free fuel drives 5,000 extra private (ie non-business) miles a year compared with a private-car driver. The car industry denies all the evidence of abuse. Not surprising — reforming the system so that it encourages people to drive less would force the industry to adapt and produce smaller, less polluting cars. Car dealers would have to stop giving big discounts to fleet buyers at the expense of individuals. All of this would be in the public interest, and would even create more jobs. Clare Short and Steven Norris — both famously honest politicians — ought to unite to get rid of these abuses rather than compete to defend them.

Stephen Joseph, Director, Transport 2000, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EJ.

Please include a full postal address and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

## Men of letters

YOU published a letter from me (February 3, 1996) in which I referred to the role of the former British Ambassador to Greece, Oliver Miles, in the decision by Cambridge University Press, and if the letter conveyed any contrary impression, I withdraw it unequivocally and I offer my apologies to Mr Miles. James Pettifer, Oxford and Cambridge Club, 71 Pall Mall, London SW1.

I FIND the outburst of letters on Israel (April 20) rather selective in their judgment. Did these people protest at the incessant bombardment of Israeli settlements in the north of that country? Harold Smith, Gwendolen Avenue, London SW15.

## A Country Diary

SOMERSET. The "Prison" or Royal Council met in what is now the peaceful country town of Somerton in AD 949. A thousand years later, today's Parish Council is responding to local feelings and practising open government. The minutes published on a board in the market square say: "The Council is dismayed to have to comment on another application for a supermarket development linked to the Red Lion complex". The chief ground for the council's dismay is the overwhelming weight of opinion of residents. The words "supermarket" and "complex" do not sit comfortably with what Pevsner calls "one of the most happily grouped urban pictures in Somerset" — a market cross in the middle of a big open space, an ancient octagonal tower, an aptly-named Broad Street bordered on both sides with trees and wide pavements, and, beside it, the Red Lion Inn ("long symmetrical five-bay front... depressed rounded archway... Venetian win-

IT IS for the nation, not Simon Hoggart, to decide whether or not the monarchy should continue (Mother of all our misfortunes, April 20). Recent opinion polls show that a large majority favour the Queen and this is especially true of young people. 54 per cent of whom think that she should be given a more substantial role in government. Almost half of those polled believe that the Queen would make a better prime minister than John Major. The Queen provides stability. The sense of duty which has enabled her to reign for almost 50 years serves as an example which is appreciated far beyond our shores. Sir Sigmund Sternberg, *Starnberg Centre for Judaism*, 90 East End Road, London N3 2SY.

THOUGH Simon Hoggart is a self-confessed monarchist, he does criticise royalty to a degree which would have had him suspended, literally, in days of yore, when criticism of a monarch was equated to treason. He says: "It's absurd to think that the royals can be blamed for all our problems." Of course it is, but that's not a point in favour of the monarchy. He gives examples of prosperous nations which are monarchies, implying that monarchs are therefore good for them — but this is the same logic which states that if a healthy cat has fleas, then fleas must be desirable. Hoggart censures the queen for being "inflexible" and for "living in a world of her own", but monarchs are like that. It is the institution which is ridiculous. Harry Davis, 49 Speer Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0PJ.

THERE is very little difference between the behaviour of the Windsor and that of any other usurper royal house. All have acted reprehensibly towards the English; all have promoted and encouraged the sycophancy necessary to the maintenance of their little semblances of authority. However, with the disintegration of this latest line of usurpers there is opportunity. We can overthrow these continental interlopers and campaign for the restoration of the true Anglo-Saxon dynasty. Bryan Williamson, 96 Broadway, Frome, Somerset BA11 3HG.

صكرا من الامل



Diary

Joanna Coles

I was, I'm sure you'll agree, Edward's bestest suggestion to hold his mama's 70th birthday party at the Waterside Inn in Bray. After all, it's the only restaurant outside London to hold three Michelin stars and Ed knew that his mum didn't want much fuss. (But most of all, as she made clear, she didn't want Fergie or Diana in attendance.) How mean-spirited then that someone should choose to spoil his super-plan by leaking all the details to the press. On Saturday the Daily Mail ran an exclusive story miraculously outlining the guest list and even the cost of the meal (£100 each). As a result, cameras were parked on the lawn at Bray from dawn on Sunday, and at the last minute the Queen decided to cancel what was supposed to be a confidential engagement. (The food was delivered to Windsor Castle instead.) Ed is now attempting to find out the leaker's identity. Alas, I can offer no clues. The fact that the story was bylined by one Richard Kay, Diana's confidant on the Mail, is unhelpful. It is, I am certain, simply one of life's increasingly bizarre coincidences.

I AM thrilled to report the latest details of my friend Terry Major-Ball's trip to the Melbourne Flower Show. Last time we spoke he was just off to Marks & Spencer to stock up on boiled sweets for the flight. Wisely, he has kept a fascinatingly wryly detailed diary of the trip. Sit back while I indulge you: "I am a little disappointed that Gates call their cabin crew flight attendants, regardless of sex. I have nothing against male stewards but I enjoy being served by charming young ladies and see no reason to be harassed by them. Only a few months ago I was recommended for addressing a female person as a lady. I am not a lady, I am a woman," she replied. My mother would find this quite baffling and so do I. To my mind a woman is like a Lamborghini. Anyone can admire a Lamborghini. That doesn't mean it's yours and you can get in and drive it." Warm, valuable words. Tomorrow: Terry has an accident with his propelling pencil.

MEANWHILE "Mad Frankie" Johnson, editor of the Spectator, has been fending off unrequited attention. His admirer is none other than the Roguesque-faced author AN Wilson, who has been unburdening himself in the Evening Standard. "I have for a long time nursed unwholesome thoughts about that gorgeous wavy-haired bachelor, the editor of the Spectator," he confesses, before explaining that various things have prevented him from "coming out" before. "One is that one dreads rejection. The other is that Mr Johnson, a self-confessed member of the working class, might not understand my declarations. He might even go around saying I was a 'poof', 'shirt-lifter' and other offensive names." A quick chat with Mad Frankie, and he assures me he would say no such thing. "His remarks are both inflamed and aroused," he murmurs only. Most intriguing.

QUEEN Mary College is staging a conference on "Gender, Beyond the Scott Report". Co-ordinator, a democratic 2235 per head. Rules: Chatham House, ie: This meeting never even took place.

ANOTHER dizzying entry for the Diary's Most Excitable Press Release: "From Essex County Council. Lime Day at Cresting Temple: An Introduction to Lime. Meet the Lime and the chances are you will spark a lively debate. Indeed you will, indeed you will."

I AM grateful to my friends at Police Review for recounting the following tale of PCs Willie Ross and Ian Shepherd, who visited the home of a suspected drug-dealer in a tenement recently. While there, they noticed no attempt had been made to conceal a handsome cannabino plant. Next day, armed with a search warrant, they returned to seize it. Only to discover it was made of plastic.

EUROPEAN MAKE ONE FEEL POSITIVELY SOLVENT.



# No waves in the clear blue water

Commentary  
Hugo Young

SURFING towards a famous victory, Labour should embody the spirit of the times. They did in 1945, the one decisive capture of power they have ever recorded. They seemed in 1994, when the white heat of technology helped Harold Wilson scrape home. They claim to in 1995, when they're so bold as to publish a book designed to mark a new intellectual ascendancy: Intellectuals for Labour. It should be a defining moment. Nobody would have dared propose such an enterprise in Neil Kinnock's time. Now that it has happened, it turns out to suggest why such self-effacement was prudent.

Here we have what Tony Blair has called a "coalition of thinkers". This answers to his consistent mantra for a politics of the "broad centre-left" (ie not just paid-up Labour people), and presumably what it was supposed to offer was a series of texts transcending

the daily business, sitting to a zeitgeist of which the Labour Party is now sole proprietor. As in both 1945 and 1994, what might be expected is proof of a body of thought reaching beyond narrow politics and embracing many branches of the intellectual class in support of a new age of reform. But what we get is an unintended corrective, to be contemplated less for its excitement than for its modesty.

First, consider the cast of authors. The 59 contributors include few genuine intellectuals. Perhaps "intellectual" has acquired a more generous definition, but the truth is that this coalition is dominated by policy wonks and special-interest lobbyists — para-politicians, in fact — with a personal interest in Labour being elected. Neal Ascherson, David Marquand and Charles Handy might qualify, and so would Denis Healey but for his long, contaminating service as a Labour politician. But in general, this is not a gathering of thinkers from beyond politics, speaking for a fusion between their worlds — academe, literature, science, the arts — and a new government.

In 1964, as Wilson's party prepared to oust the Macmillan-Home chronism, such a spirit of shared expectation was more prevalent. A common language reached through the chattering

classes. I do not think this is now apparent. The engagement of intellectuals is, for the most part, limited. Like many others, they may agree that the Tories must depart. But their alternative allegiance is less than positive. In the modern Labour Party, ideas and politics sit together on pragmatic lines, usually in rough conformity with what the leader is saying. In this collection, Judge Tumin's sensible reflections on crime and punishment stand almost alone in exposing — and then only by implication — the catastrophic errors of the party line.

Second, however, the intellectuals in question are not entirely to blame. Times have greatly changed. In 1945, both politicians and voters retained great faith in the power of government to improve the world. In 1964, the faith of voters may have diminished, but government still showed unquestioning confidence in National Plans and all-embracing blueprints. In 1996, neither the politician nor his public has anything but a modest belief in the capacity of government to do very much. This is the age of low expectations, and the prevailing caution is reflected by no one more insistently than the leader of the Labour Party. One absorbing political spectacle of 1996 will be the working-out of Tony Blair's

messianic self-belief in general against his cautionary self-doubt in particular: his faith that his time has come, against his belief in the limits of what he can promise to do. Perhaps even what he wants to promise. For here is the third, and most suggestive, revelation in What Needs To Change: that the answer is, apparently, rather little. At Labour's other defining moments, this was never true. In 1945, the nation voted for a post-war socialism encompassing all the major sectors of public life. In 1964, Wilson's vision of change, however thinly held, it later proved to be, seemed to reach across the board, and in the fields of culture and liberty his government clocked up a serious record of reform. But in 1996, whatever the party rhetoric says, the opportunities for distinctiveness are much smaller, and the claims to it tend towards the fraudulent.

In 1964, Wilson's vision of change, however thinly held, it later proved, seemed to reach across the board

The intellectuals write against a background of massive, accelerating change: the information revolution, transformations in technology, global markets in finance, business and investment, dramatic shifts in labour markets and changes at work and in the family, as their editor, Giles Radice MP, sums it up. From macro-economic policy to welfare reform, modern patterns present challenges of which the Major Government is just as aware as the other

side, and which it addresses with much the same limited armoury of political responses. One of the big differences from 1964 is that nobody can pretend to possess the Big Idea, or any longer enter the Great Illusion, under which the left used to believe that market forces in all their variety could be resisted. Short of verbiage, not only is the analysis made by Old Tory quite similar to New Labour's, but the remedies have the same air of heterodox uncertainty. The common themes of this book are practical not ideological: virtually every author, for example, finds a way of defining education as the make-or-buy test for a successful Blair government. A basic point and true enough, but hardly the stuff of a defining shift.

One idea of distinctiveness and substance does emerge. It is the case for reform of politics itself: structure, systems, our very democracy. Amid all the soft-edged words like community, stakeholding and their derivatives, that is the only reliable difference between the parties. It is vitally important. But as the programme for a whole new era it has its limitations. This is neither 1945 nor 1964, as the thinkers unconsciously concede. There is no hard radicalism they believe in. For that one must still look to the right. Radical analyses and apocalyptic answers may not be the only way for real intellectuals to make their mark. But they are the way to change. The Radical collection exhibits how little the Blair era will change: how defensive, in the end, it may have to be of a social order whose destroyers will by then be shouting at the gates.

What Needs To Change: New Visions For Britain, edited by Giles Radice, £14.99, published by HarperCollins on Thursday

election was called, was that Communist Refoundation could not take his economic policies — policies it regarded as inhuman and "anti-worker". Communist Refoundation will not be an ally. But if Professor Prodi can hold together the somewhat ragtag army behind him, then he has it in his power to win some famous victories, for the Italian people did on Sunday what was something remarkable.

In the first place, they surprised even themselves by making their curious, hybrid electoral system work. It was set up to promote a two-party or at least two-bloc system in which power would pass at intervals from one to the other in a way that did not happen under the old *pentapartito*.

That — give or take a myriad of political melodramas — is what happened. Leave out Dini's stop-gap administration, and the story of the last couple of years is that first Silvio Berlusconi, and now Professor Prodi, have been voted into power with working majorities.

That in turn holds out hope — if nothing more — that this immensely dynamic, but chaotic, nation can at last achieve the sort of political stability it needs to safeguard its economic achievements. It may be that, as Prodi suggested in one of the most cryptic remarks of election night, that "Italians have voted for calm".

But when all the qualifications have been made, it is equally clear that they have done much more than just that. On Sunday, they told the world that they really did want decency and sincerity in their political leaders: that the drive against corruption which brought down the old order was more than just hypocritical cant; and that while they were ready to put up with a lot, they were not ready to put up with a man who was actually on trial for corruption.

That may be unfair on Silvio Berlusconi, who could yet be found innocent by the courts. It is also the case that Prodi has a problem of his own with the law. Last February, he was told he was under investigation for abuse of office in connection with the sale of a subsidiary while head of the state holding company, IRI.

But, politically, what was just as important as either man's innocence or guilt was the starkly different image which each presented to the electorate. On the one hand, Berlusconi, the eternally bronzed, immaculately dressed, silver-tongued television star. On the other hand, Romano Prodi, a jolly, bespectacled economics professor who often looks and sounds clumsy.

# Homeward on the wings of an angel



Beatrix Campbell

IT WAS dawn and the bus was flying up the A1 towards the Tyne Bridge bearing our big, beautiful boy. He was the first in our extended family's youngest generation to leave home. This was his first homecoming. And it was when the great art of the Tyne Bridge welcomed him that he wept. He was home.

The bridge is the iconography of Tyne-side, its unifying symbol. Unlike beer or the Toot Army or all those Andy Capp stereotypes of Geordieland that actually signify a struggle over space, exclusion rather than embrace, the Lads vs Everybody Else — the bridge is not about Tyne-side's brawl with itself.

Ironically, its iconic status is growing with the demise of the river as a workplace and its rediscovery as, simply, a place, somewhere defined by the commitment to congregation and the convivial company of strangers. Wild and witty public pleasures are the defining culture of this city.

Tyne-side has a passionate sense of place. There's that bridge. There's the language. The belief that dialect is *being*, and with it an identification with locality, is comic of the region, but also a humanity that is always, and yet always more than, a body.

For some of the Angel's critics, it is the idea of the monument, literally a landmark, rather than the idea of an angel, that is the problem. The monument, it seems, would spoil a "nice bit of countryside", which depends on the notion of countryside as not-city, like Tate & Lyle sugar, untouched by human hand.

IRONICALLY, the Angel will be anchored in the "landscaped" ruins of a colliery. "Though not exactly a slag heap, it's a dump," says Gormley. In any case, it is not "countryside": it is in a corner-bath, Gormley hopes his art can become part of the living experience of turning a site into a place. The Angel will be seen against the sky — in the light — in the place where people worked in the dark.

people want to see Gormley's Field in Gateshead, housed in old railway sheds, in little more than a month. Amazing. Enemies of the Angel are most in evidence in the comments-book attached to its magazine. The critics are remarkable for two things: their "indecency" and their pessimism about public space. And who can blame them? Their ruinous landscape declares: thou shalt not be consulted, thou shalt not care. You read "rubbish" followed by "well, like it". Or "the birds will have someone to shit" and "give it to London because they're white". But Gateshead's remarkable and redemptive public art project is slowly changing the way we see the place.

What may also be disorientating about the Angel is its soft sexuality. It is undeniably masculine. But this is not the transcendent muscularity of the worker we see in socialist realism or fascism or, indeed, the public art of our "can become part of the living experience of turning a site into a place". Gormley says "I use my own body because that's where I live" — unlike a long line of artists who preferred to use women's bodies. "I challenge the traditional heroism of the male body in art; my interest is to work from the inside out."

The external ribs produce a "robust silhouette" whose angelic ambitions — expressed in its great welcoming wings — seem to embrace both the engineering locality, its comic of the region, but also a humanity that is always, and yet always more than, a body.

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Which brings us back to what produces a place. The Tyne Bridge something to see: its pleasure and potency is in seeing, an elegant witness to engineering and the coming and going that are the message of modernity. Maybe the Angel of the North will embrace travellers with those wings and tell them that wherever they live, here is homecoming.



# Spring-cleaning

Italy has rejected the suspect charms of the right in a decisive vote against corruption, argues John Hooper. But can the new centre-left hold tight?

IF HALF a century is history, then the outcome of Italy's general election deserves to be called historic. It is not much of an exaggeration to say that from the end of the second world war, politics in Italy was about just one thing: how to keep the western world's most powerful Communist party out of government. It was the abiding concern not only of the Christian Democrats, who dominated political life, but also of their patrons, in the Vatican and the White House.

An entire way of doing things grew up around this single aim. Parts of the secular left which, in the normal course of events, would have competed tooth and nail with the Christian Democrats were dejected into joining them in coalition in exchange for a share in the spoils of power.

It should have taken so long for Italians to opt for the left is tribute to the depth of anti-Communist sentiment which built up in the post-war years. In order to get the PDS into power, its leader, Massimo D'Alema, had to carry out an operation which is like a mirror image of the one mounted by the Christian Democrats to keep the Communists out of it. He allied with a progressively broader swathe of parties and politicians to the PDS's right.

He linked up with the middle-of-the-road Popular Party, which is made up of former left-leaning Christian Democrats, and agreed to let one of them, Professor Romano Prodi, be the centre-left's candidate for the premier's post. But he also went further, attracting men like the outgoing premier, Lamberto Dini, and his aspirant successor, Antonio Maccanico, whose natural home is some considerable distance to the right of centre.

There is, indeed, a touch of irony about yesterday's result. Italians voted for change. But in doing so they opted for a recast version of the past — not a *pentapartito*, as some rightwing critics argued, but a cleaned-up and

toned-down *hexapartito* which also embraces what was once the PCI.

The fact that Italy's new ruling alliance embraces the whole of the old PCI is potentially its greatest weakness. Five years ago, a substantial minority within the old Communist party could not stomach the ditching of Marxism and went off to form a new group, Communist Refoundation.

In the key, lower house of parliament, the centre-left Olive Tree alliance will be unable to command a majority without help from the orthodox Marxists of Communist Refoundation.

One of the right's wittier candidates, speaking as the results came in on Sunday night, dubbed the prospective alliance between the centre-left and Communist Refoundation a "Russian salad". "We shall be very interested to see this heterogeneous coalition put to the test," he said.

So, one imagines, will international investors once they recover from yesterday's euphoria. Lamberto Dini could very well get the Treasury in the new government. But the reason why he fell from power, and why Sunday's

WWF logo and 'WOLF SHARK SWIM!' advertisement. Text: 'Help vanishing species! Get sponsored and join The Great WWF Shark Swim!' Includes phone number 01483-426269 and 'FOR AN ENTRY FORM'.



Molly Keane

Writing on the hoof

MOLLY KEANE, who has died aged 76, was a delightful, witty woman with a gift for friendship and living. She was born into an Anglo-Irish family, the daughter of Robert Skrine, a noted horseman, and a mother who was a linguist and musician...

home on her horse after a hard day's hunting. So apparently casually did her remarkable career begin; and over three decades, in intense and painful bouts of writing, crammed into a few months taken off from her precious hunting, she wrote 11 novels and three plays...

Her career spanned 60 years, though her creative powers lay mute in her middle years, stilled by the sudden death of her dashing young husband. A witty, happy man who loved old furniture, me, his daughters, good food and talk...



Life's tapestry... Molly Keane's novels of the moneyed, hunting class are social testimonies

Polly Devlin

Grove Boylan writes: Molly Keane described herself in a profile in the New Yorker as "a great old breaker-awayer". Born in a Georgian manor in Co Wicklow, with stables, servants and 300 acres, she first broke all the rules of decency by writing a novel at the age of 18...

recounted with relish her mother's bleak efforts at sex instruction. "There's a thing men do," she told her when she was 17, "and you won't like it." Molly's advice to her daughters, Sally and Virginia, was different: "Bed is a friendly place."

spoke of this and she vowed never to write a memoir. "Too much pain. Any one else can say whatever they like after I'm gone." After a long absence from writing she first used her real name with her Booker short-listed Good Behaviour...

lucely witty and we became the most tremendous chums. People used to wonder why she married her husband who was nice but rather dull. She told me: "Marriage is like a train. You just run and run until you catch one and then you sit inside your compartment and realise you're bored."

Christopher Robin Milne

Bearing a legacy of empty fame

THE fourth of A A Milne's Christopher Robin books, The House at Pooh Corner, and the next series of books, "In that enchanted place on the top of the forest, a little boy and his bear will always be playing."

longer than the contentment of JM Barrie's real-life adopted lost boys. He was shadowed by the memory of a parent who was emotionally remote, from whom he had had to run away as a young man. And it was defeated in his mature years by the sound of the A A Milne industry, from which he did not benefit. However, Christopher Robin Milne grew up into a judicious, balanced man who reached a truce with his legacy. He found his own enchanted places in his



Bridging fact and fiction... Christopher Robin real and imaginary: there was no idyllic childhood

family and in the Devon and Sussex countryside, which he used the family name to try to preserve. In Dartmouth, he and his wife Lesley, a cousin, ran perhaps the best-known small bookshop in the country. Though he looked

quessy if asked to discuss them, the Christopher Robin titles were prominent on his shelves. He photographed them if you donated £10 to the Save the Children fund. Milne was four when he first appeared in print:

They're changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace - Christopher Robin went down with Alice... More lethal than boarding school bullies read it was: Little boy kneels at the foot of the bed. Drops on the little hands His golden head. Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares! Christopher Robin is saying his prayers.

Jackdaw



Photo op

AND the editor spoke and he said that the art department should bring forth a photograph of the Son of God, so that Time magazine would look better than Newsweek when it appeared in the magazine kiosks of Sodom and Gomorrah, New York and Chicago, London and Rome. But the art department knew what way to turn, for the Son of God had not signed up with any of their usual model agencies. Deirdre Dolan takes up the story in the New York Observer: Then Pamela Jenrette, a Time make-up artist, spoke up. She had this friend, she said, who

bore a remarkable resemblance to Jesus. She particularly recalled his "spiritual quality." ("You know how some men have a scent, but it's nice?") and "a sweetness around the mouth that men in New York usually lose." He was off in Australia, as it turned out, wandering the desert. And, serily, he used to be a bartender at Tatou, where, Christlike, he served the multitudes. When Ms Jenrette reached the former bartender (whom men call "Scott Hull") in Australia, he was thrilled to be the chosen one. "That's so weird!" he said. "My mom's name is Mary!" He flew to New York that night for a meeting that turned out to be a mere formality; everyone agreed he was the one. "He even acts like you would expect Christ to act," Ms Jenrette recalled. "He's got this incredible posture and he moves real slow, never hurried. He just kind of floats. He's real self-contained and not really talkative. He's all of a piece, you know. Sometimes cowboys live that way."

Neighbourly

JANET Paddock and Alfred Stephens discovered the new relationship between telephoto photography and community the hard way when they moved into a small Florida condominium complex with communal swimming pool. One afternoon, they arrived home early and made love on the ground floor of their condo. In the heat of passion, they left the window-blind open, permitting a neighbour to secretly videotape the entire incident with telephoto zoom. The neighbour took the tape to the police who arrested the couple on felony charges of lewd and lascivious conduct in front of a child. (Apparently some youngsters might have been able to see the incident from the condominium's pool area, but in actuality, the children didn't take the time to look.) Publicity followed: recriminations, jobs were lost, and community forsaken. Two weeks after the arraignment, Janet Paddock attempted suicide. With the communist threat in check, it seems people the world over are now

Heavenly body

Top Model has special pages devoted to Cindy Crawford, the Story of a Star. In includes "24 Hours with Cindy". By 12pm... Cindy has always loved flowers, especially orchids. That's why she wanted to make a detour by the market to see the greenhouse where the rare species are kept. Divinely elegant in a black pantsuit, Cindy attracts everyone's attention. So who is her favorite designer? God, she says. "Because He created our bodily appearance!"

Positive advice

IF I had to give advice on Aids based on my experience, I'd say to HIV people with HIV+ friends... you should not spend your time and

energy thinking about them dying. Think about them being with you in the future. Your friends may be in need of a reason to stick around, and you may be it. To HIV+ people who are having unsafe sex, you should ask yourself why. There are reasons why people have unsafe sex; they don't know how to negotiate for safer sex, or they internalised the dominant cultural hatred of gays and think they are unworthy of protection, or they have internalised commercial gay culture and don't want to live past 35 (which would make them "over the hill"). You have reasons but no excuses. As for HIV+ folks, I don't know what to tell ya. I've just come to the conclusion that I know a lot of cool people and want to stay to be with them. I looked into the future and decided that I want to be there. I'm not thinking about death, and prefer to have people in my life who don't think I'm going to die tomorrow. Given a choice, that is basically all I'd ever say on the issue. Pedro Angel Serrano, 36, writing about being HIV+ in Outpunk.

On the board

IF YOU think what is involved in skateboarding: music, bodystyle, interclass relations (though we may dispute whether there are inter-gender and inter-racial constellations), I don't think there is anything in it that makes it exclusively white,

Desmond Christy

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Robert Hersant

Guarded past of a French press baron

ROBERT HERSANT, who has died aged 76, was France's most powerful press baron and passionate about spreading news. But he preferred to keep his own motives secret. Alain Peyrefitte, the former Gaullist minister and commentator in Hersant's flagship, Le Figaro, wrote yesterday that "this kind of communications communication very little. He did not detest surrounding his life with a halo of mystery. Even his words were broken up with long silences."

threatened because Mitterrand's socialist intended to curb newspaper ownership as part of the new president's platform. Laws were passed but Hersant was untouchable. He benefited from Mitterrand's unspoken protection as an anti-Gaullist ally. Earlier, Hersant was annulled after a 1962 disqualification from the national assembly and was elected in 1966 as a candidate for a movement run by Mitterrand. In 1968, he helped finance his ally's first presidential campaign. Later Mitterrand was given exceptional space in Le Figaro to respond to attacks. Hersant was a deputy until 1978 and returned to the national assembly in 1986 representing the then president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's party's native Union for French Democracy (UDF). From 1984 until his death he was a UDF MEP, and Simone Veil, the former European parliament speaker who led the list of MEPs who were chosen, brushed off his collaborationist past by saying there were men who had done worse things under Vichy in Mitterrand's entourage. Hersant's failure to build a Murdoch-style media group

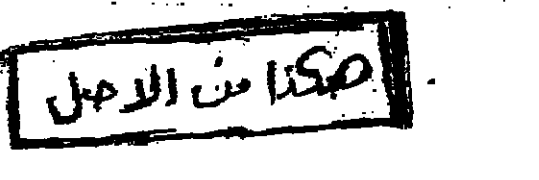
Birthdays

Shirley Temple Black, former child star and US ambassador, 88; The Most Rev Michael Bowen, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, 66; Bill Cotton, broadcaster, 88; Antony Craxton, pioneer of online broadcasts, 78; J Donleavy, author, 70; Harold French, actor, theatre and film director, 96; Air Vice-Marshal Tim Gearing, commander Royal College of Defence Studies, 52; Victoria Glendinning, biographer, 69; Sir Arnold Hall, aeronautical engineer, 81; James Hoggan, travel writer, 41; Ronald Neame, film producer and director, 85; Mike Smith, disc jockey, 41; George Steiner, linguistic philosopher and critic, 67; Ed Stewart, disc jockey, 55.

Death Notices

CORBETT, Geoffrey, died peacefully on 18th April much remembered for his contribution to music and support of the Arts. He will be sadly missed by his wife, Joan, and children, Peter, Paul, and Susan. Burial at St. Paul's, London. Tel: 0171-462 4444.

Advertisement for Bellm, featuring a large image of a person's face and text including 'Bell m', 'his protes', 'creation o', 'aw phone g', 'Southern E', '1,300', 'P-wit', 'won't bail you out'.

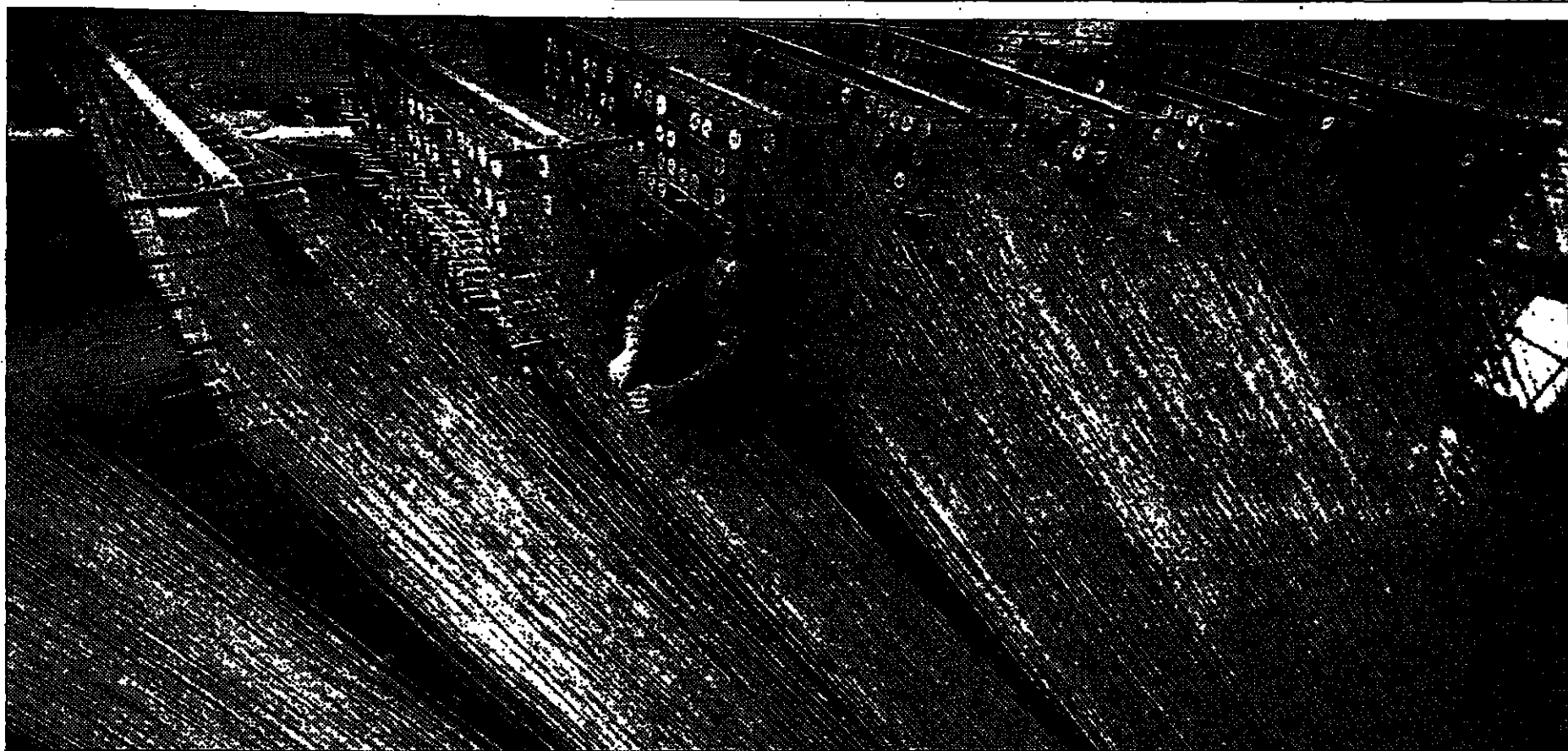




صكنا من الامل

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian



Weaver Brian Trevis, creels the bobbins on a gripper loom at the 300-year-old Wilton Carpet Factory, which is celebrating its first year as a private company. American firm Carpets International wanted to close the Wiltshire factory, but managers negotiated a lease with site owners Coats Viyella while raising purchase money

## Notebook

### City's Darling points the way



Edited by Alex Brummer

THERE has been some criticism of Labour for its failure to spell out precisely what it means by stakeholding. In the Spring lecture to the Fabians last night, City spokesman Alister Darling went some way to providing a definition of corporate stakeholding. He makes a distinction between the primary stakeholders in the company — the investor, the management and the employees — and the secondary stakeholders, who include the suppliers and the customers. Focusing on the primary stakeholders, he identifies the institutions who control some 60 per cent of UK equities, as being critical in that they can help govern "whether individual companies prosper or fail". They can do this in two ways: by acting as insiders (thus encouraging change for the better) or voting with their feet by selling stakes. Mr Darling regards the former as the more useful model and would seek to underpin it by removing legislation which prevents companies from sharing confidential data with their biggest shareholders for fear of falling foul of the insider trading policeman. He would propose giving employees a bigger role in public companies by means of increasing employee share ownership. There already are quite useful tax benefits for such ownership, but as a concept it has not really gained a strong foothold in Britain. This is in contrast to the US where companies such as United Airlines and Avis have taken it all the way. One of the building blocks of that success, in the Labour view, will be the corporate tax regime. There are clear indications from Mr Darling that, under Labour control, corporate Britain would be provided with the incentives to invest: absence of investment has perhaps been the most disappointing aspect of this business expansion.

## Market myth

PURISTS in the science of competition once agreed admirably on the UK economy and particularly its privatised utilities. Here competition would deliver choice and low prices for enthusiastic consumers. The angry outpourings of John Redwood at the weekend show that the purists feel sick. He complains that the electricity industry is being reshaped in a way that will allow a few giants to carve up neatly sheltered chunks of the market like the good old monopolists they really are. But Mr Redwood is confused. Any assessment of Britain's experience of privatisation is not that mobile. Why has BT so successfully clung to more than 90 per cent of its market 12 years after it was forced to face competition? The ads may say welcome to the new but punters actually went away. And, as we report on page 18 today, it is a safe bet that the same will apply in the South-west when the Government next week launches its experiment in gas competition despite offers of 25 per cent cuts in gas bills.

That too is a motive behind National Power's £2.5 billion bid for Southern Electric — widely regarded as being at a juicy premium of at least £500 million. It is driving Mr Redwood's desire to close in again on Midlands. And the Southern Co of Atlanta, Georgia, has bought SWEB and now wants to buy National Power for the same reason. The Treasury Secretary, Ian Llang, has to decide whether to let this restructuring happen. He may say no and win a slap on the back from Mr Redwood. But the chances are he will say yes. In an election year, his main interest is trading on tomorrow's illusory benefits of competition rather than sorting out past mistakes.

## Money alert

THE renewed interest by the Bank of England in the money supply can be looked at in two ways. Sceptics might argue that the authorities have only rediscovered money because they see it as a useful weapon with which to beat the Chancellor at monthly meetings. The purists would say that the money supply, as measured by M4, has been sending out danger signals for some time and it is time for the authorities to take them seriously. The latter argument is slowly gaining the upper hand. The M4 money supply data show that broad money, which includes money on deposit at the

# Bell merger causes fury

## Rivals protest at creation of new phone giant

Mark Tran in New York

THE \$24 billion (£16 billion) Nynex and Bell Atlantic merger came under immediate attack yesterday from rivals MCI and AT&T, with calls for investigations from the United States Justice Department and Federal Communications Commission. The deal, which will create the second biggest telecommunications group in the US after AT&T, was unveiled yesterday morning. AT&T and MCI, where British Telecom has a 20 per cent stake, lost little time in criticising the planned merger as a threat to competition. In combining forces, Bell Atlantic and Nynex stand to take one of the most lucrative long-distance markets in America away from the established long-distance companies, AT&T, MCI, and Sprint. A plaintive statement from AT&T, which is splitting itself into three companies, betrayed its nervousness at the prospect of competition from

a new, stronger Bell Atlantic. "It's hard to see how new competition promised by the Telecommunications Act can be attained if existing monopolies simply combine into larger ones," AT&T said. "The merger will deny customers the benefits of head-to-head competition." MCI, for its part, urged the US Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission to examine the deal to ensure that it did not go against the open markets envisaged by Congress. It expressed concern at what appeared to be a growing trend towards consolidation of the regional phone companies' monopoly power. "The new company will cover a vast swath of the eastern US, stretching from Maine to Virginia, an area encompassing 12 states and 36 million customers. The catchment area would include the plum markets of New York and Washington as well as

major population centres, such as Boston and Philadelphia. The combined firm, to be called Bell Atlantic, will have a stock-market value of \$51 billion (£34 billion) — the same size as BT and C&W, should they merge — with annual sales of \$77 billion and 127,000 employees. Geographic proximity will be an enormous advantage as Bell Atlantic and Nynex expand into the long distance market. By modifying the software in their existing networks, the two companies could have immediate access to a potentially huge long-distance market. Some 30 per cent of America's long distance calls originate in the two companies' territories. By merging, they have a good chance of capturing many of those calls. It would also allow the two companies to combine their long distance marketing efforts, one of the biggest costs in the long distance business.

Nynex chairman Ivan Seidenberg sought to head off criticism of the deal made on competitive grounds. "There's plenty of competition about. This is an opportunity to move into video and long distance. We believe we will create much more choice for customers." The unions also voiced their opposition to the Bell Atlantic-Nynex deal. "Neither consumers nor workers will be well served by a merger," said Jan Pierce, vice president of the Communications Workers of America, which represents 70,000 employees at the two companies. "We will oppose the merger with every resource available to us." About 2,000 to 3,000 employees, mostly managers in overlapping functions, are expected to lose their jobs. But Mr Seidenberg said the 3,000 job reductions expected from the merger with Bell Atlantic do not include any union positions.

The second biggest deal in US history after the \$26 billion acquisition of RJR Nabisco by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts in 1989, the Bell Atlantic-Nynex share swap deal comes on the heels of the merger agreement between Pacific Telesis in California and SBC in Texas, earlier this month. Should these two mergers be approved by the US government, the seven Baby Bells created by the break-up of the old AT&T will shrink to five. The impetus behind the flurry of deals is the Telecommunications Act, passed by Congress in February. The new law, revamping 60 years of legislation, allows all the players — cable, long distance and local phone companies — to compete directly with each other. Local companies will no longer enjoy a monopoly in their areas. From now on, a long distance or cable company can enter the market as well.

# Southern Electric chiefs in line for £2m bonus

Chris Barrie and Simon Beavis

RENEWED outrage over executive pay and perks erupted last night when it emerged that five Southern Electric directors stand to make more than £2 million from shares and options if National Power's £2.5 billion agreed bid for the regional electricity company goes ahead. With trade and industry secretary Ian Lang set to announce his decision as early as today on whether to allow the takeover, National Power sought to preempt his decision by offering £60 for each Southern Electric share. The offer values equity held by Southern's four executive directors and the part-time chairman at £1.8 million. Options and shares held under the power distributor's incentive scheme would be worth another £459,897. Chief executive Henry Casley alone will make £312,601. The windfall gains, which come on top of last year's boardroom remuneration of £974,000, were condemned by

## 1,300 jobs at risk as Power Store pleads with creditors

Roger Cowe

POWER Store, the struggling electrical retailer created from former electricity board showrooms, was last night locked in talks with creditors in a bid to avoid the appointment of administrators which would threaten 1,300 jobs. The company has been able to reach an informal agreement with its creditors, if not, a High Court hearing on Monday will approve the appointment of administrators from the accountancy firm Arthur Andersen. In a confidential letter to suppliers explaining the company's plight, chairman Clive Viotman blames some of its problems on "the enforced and unhelpful relocation of the Northampton head office" which followed Yorkshire Electricity's decision last autumn to give Power Store six weeks' notice to quit its offices. The move "had an adverse effect on the financial and administrative fabric of the company at a critical time", he writes. These problems added to difficult trading conditions experienced throughout the industry and resulted in Power Store writing to suppliers on Friday afternoon on April 12 it applied for the appointment of administrators "to protect the interests of the business and the creditors". Viotman has asked for suppliers' support in continuing to deliver products so that the shops can continue trading. Funds are being placed in a special account so that these supplies will be paid for. The company operates 16 Power Store supermarkets, acquired from LEB three years ago, and 70 shops in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, bought for £7 million from Homepower, the joint venture between the electricity companies in those two regions. It also has a joint venture with German computer retailer Volbis.

investors will receive a second interim dividend of 26.3p a share in lieu of a final dividend. There is a loan note alternative. America's Southern Company, which last week expressed its interest in buying National Power, was said to be surprised at the target's hasty move but biding its time before making a possible hostile £3 billion-plus bid. The impetus behind the National Power, the US group is believed ready to sell South Western Electricity, the regional power group it already owns, to calm fears of reduced competition. Some City observers expressed surprise at the price National Power has had to pay to win new agreement for a merger with Southern, with its bid widely seen to be pitched at a healthy premium of up to £200 million. Others noted that it had done better on Friday in sealing a £2.7 billion deal to sell off power stations to Hanson. One benefit is that National Power will enjoy tax-free lease income on the three stations for seven years, boosting proceeds.

Under the offer, Southern stance on the industry's restructuring. One banker, who asked for a book value of £31 million. Lloyd's moved its underwriting operation across Lime Street to the modern Sir Richard Rogers-designed building in 1986. But the 1958 building declined, because it judged the building, which includes the cavernous ex- underwriting room, as "awkward" space which would require extensive costly refurbishment before it could be used as a modern office. The building is divided by a private roadway which runs through its middle. A Lloyd's spokesman said: "We are still looking to banks for a mortgage

and the response has been very positive." He said the building had a book value of £31 million. Lloyd's moved its underwriting operation across Lime Street to the modern Sir Richard Rogers-designed building in 1986. But the 1958 building declined, because it judged the building, which includes the cavernous ex- underwriting room, as "awkward" space which would require extensive costly refurbishment before it could be used as a modern office. The building is divided by a private roadway which runs through its middle. A Lloyd's spokesman said: "We are still looking to banks for a mortgage

## We won't bail you out, Clarke tells markets

Sarah Fyfe in Washington

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, warned the markets last night that they would not be bailed out of bad loans made to governments of emerging economies in the event of another Mexican-style collapse. Mr Clarke told the policy-making committee of the International Monetary Fund in Washington that commercial lenders should develop their own mechanisms for dealing with sovereign liquidity crises. He said: "Immunity from default creates the wrong incentives for private-sector creditors: and it makes the risks and costs of resolu-

tion of any crisis are borne by the debtor country and the official community alone." The move could increase the burden of debt on some of the world's most vulnerable economies, because it suggests that the markets might exact a risk premium. That would reduce the value of bonds and would force a country to issue more bonds to raise the required amount of funding. Mr Clarke, however, welcomed a report published after yesterday's G10 meeting (made up of senior officials representing the G7 nations and other industrial countries) which warned that lenders of private-sector debt should work on the assumption that their debt was subordinated. After the Mexican

collapse private creditors were repaid in full and promptly. "They [the markets] should consider developing means to enable them to renegotiate payment terms in the event of a liquidity crisis," the Chancellor said. Mr George said: "There is no question of the G10 countries leading the way on this. We look to the private sector to carry it forward." UK officials said the Chancellor was keen to dispel any impression that investing in government bonds was safe money, particularly in the light of a raft of IMF reforms designed to prevent another Mexican-style crisis and to improve rescue measures if the prevention failed and a cure were needed.

## Lloyd's seeks £31m mortgage for '1958 building'

Pauline Springgett

LLOYD'S of London is trying to arrange a £31 million mortgage on the building in Lime Street which formerly housed its underwriting room, property and banking sources have revealed. Lloyd's, which has recently lost £11 billion, is trying desperately to raise extra cash to fund a settlement offer of more than £3 billion for its loss-stricken Names. Several UK and European banks are understood to have been asked if they would be interested in lending Lloyd's around £31 million in a mortgage deal on the property, known as the

"1958 building" because it was opened in that year. One banker, who asked not to be named, said he had been given a "hard sell" by a Lloyd's intermediary who had wanted his bank to agree to a £31 million mortgage. This particular bank declined, because it judged the building, which includes the cavernous ex- underwriting room, as "awkward" space which would require extensive costly refurbishment before it could be used as a modern office. The building is divided by a private roadway which runs through its middle. A Lloyd's spokesman said: "We are still looking to banks for a mortgage

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# House market hopes dashed

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

HOPES of a spring revival in the housing market were dashed yesterday by figures showing a fall in property sales last month and weaker-than-expected demand for home loans. Despite evidence of rising prices, data from the Inland Revenue show buyers reluctant to commit to a new home, with seasonally adjusted sales of 89,000 in March — down from 91,000 the previous month and 97,000 in January. Rising values have pushed up the sums building societies are lending, but the pick-up is smaller than at the corresponding point last year, according to figures released yesterday by the Building Societies Association. Net new advances totalled £1,630 million last month, up from £803 million in February — but below the £1,067 billion of the previous March. Lenders are now pinning their hopes on a resurgence in confidence on the back of this month's tax cut and lower base rates. The BSA's Peter Williams said: "The market has stabilised. This is consistent with the expectation of a modest upturn in the next quarter." The odds on the Chancellor seizing on last week's cut in German interest rates as a justification for dropping the cost of borrowing from its present 6 per cent widened after the Bank of England reported strong money supply growth.

## TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.8640	France 7.80	Italy 2.313	Singapore 2.08
Austria 15.90	Germany 2.22	Malta 0.5350	South Africa 0.24
Belgium 45.55	Switzerland 352.50	Netherlands 2.4850	Spain 164.75
Canada 2.0050	Hong Kong 11.40	New Zealand 2.1450	Sweden 10.00
Cyprus 0.70	India 51.90	Norway 9.61	Switzerland 1.750
Denmark 8.81	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 229.00	Turkey 107.308
Finland 7.15	Israel 4.84	Saudi Arabia 5.64	USA 1.4765

Supplied by Reuters/Deutsche Bank including Indian rupee and Israeli sheqat



# Tunnel faces up to its deluge of debt

**OUTLOOK/IAN KING** on a bottomless pit swallowing up £2m a day in interest charges



**EUROTUNNEL**

Stock market value: £622 m

Share price: 69p ▲-41/2p

Workforce: 2,991

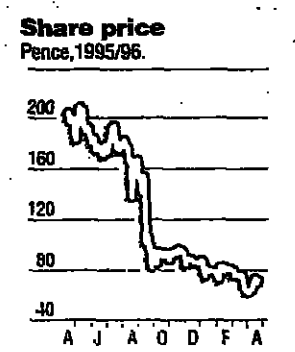
Interest cover: N/A

FULL YEAR: £ % change

Sales: 299m 97%

Pre-tax loss: 925m -13%

Dividend/share: None N/A



**F**OR a man who had just announced one of the worst losses in corporate history, Eurotunnel chairman Sir Alastair Morton looked pretty chipper yesterday. So much so that one almost expected him to burst into a chorus of Always Look on the Bright Side of Life.

Not only did Eurotunnel notch up a £925 million after-tax loss for 1995, but the company is groaning under a debt mountain of £3.9 billion, and is running up interest estimated at £2 million a day.

At the same time, problems continue to mount up. Eurotunnel's 226 bankers — who agreed to freeze the company's interest repayments last September — have yet to thrash out how that debt will be rescheduled, rumours persist of calls for Sir Alastair's head, and Eurotunnel's long suffering 730,000 small shareholders, five out of six of whom are French, have still to receive a single centime in dividends.

The Channel ferry operators are proving doughtier opponents than expected, slashing fares to retain market share, and refusing to make the cuts in services which Sir Alastair believes are just a matter of time.

This, along with the effects of the French rail strike, meant that the passenger and freight figures announced yesterday were not as good as Eurotunnel had forecast at the half-year stage.

To top it all, Eurotunnel has been dogged by a series of public relations disasters — not all of its own making — such as the train which broke down in the tunnel recently, leaving shivering passengers waiting 14 hours.

But Sir Alastair, looking on the bright side, points to some



Sir Alastair Morton... In a deep hole, and getting deeper

of the better news in Eurotunnel's latest results. For instance, the company has grabbed a 47 per cent share of the Channel freight market and 41 per cent of the passenger market, and is attracting more business all the time. The trading figures for the first three months of 1996 are twice those of the corresponding period last year, with almost a million passengers travelling on Eurostar, while a record 50,000 used the service on Easter Saturday.

More good news is promised: "more grief" for the ferries this summer, a potentially lucrative fibre-optic cable link through the tunnel, further cost reductions and, in due course, a high-speed rail link on the English side, operated by London & Continental Railways.

The big question concerns Eurotunnel's debts. Sir Alastair was coy yesterday when he expected to reach agreement with the bankers, but, although nothing concrete is expected at least until September, more news may

be forthcoming at June's annual shareholder meeting. With only 8 per cent of Eurotunnel's debts fixed, the company is alarmingly exposed to any upturn in interest rates. Under the terms of the standstill arrangement, agreement must be reached this year.

Despite Sir Alastair's protests to the contrary, a "debt for equity" swap — where bankers exchange some of their debts for a stake in the company — still looks the likeliest way of achieving a breakthrough, particularly given Eurotunnel's desperate need to fix borrowing rates.

Sir Alastair's dilemma is that, apart from enraging Eurotunnel's small shareholders, this would effectively make him the employee of the very bankers he now claims to be standing up to, weakening his own position.

It was not surprising that he yesterday said a debt-for-equity swap "in the traditional Anglo-Saxon sense of the creditor takes all" was not on the table at all.

Behind this, Sir Alastair

## Euro Disney cuts losses

Lisa Buckingham

**E**URO Disney, the Paris theme park operator, reported yesterday a 30 per cent decrease to 169 million francs (£25 million) in its losses for the opening half of the year despite having to restart repayments on its debt.

Before taking into account lease and finance charges, the theme park recorded its first six-month profit. The improvement is attributed to higher attendances following the reduction in entrance fees, coupled with better occupancy rates at its hotels.

Analysts are now predicting that 1.5 million people will visit Disneyland Paris in the current year, compared with 10.8 million last year. Roughly 500,000 of this figure is attributed to the draw of the £100 million Space Mountain ride.

Euro Disney is also thought to have substantially increased the occupancy rate at its hotels, which charge between £30 and £300 a night for a family room (the company reveals no details, analysts estimate the group achieved a 68 per cent occupancy compared with the Paris average of 60).

Revenues for the theme park, which charges an entrance fee of about £20, rose by 11 per cent in the first half to 910 million francs. Increased visitor numbers offset the reduction in entrance prices introduced last summer. Income from the hotels rose by 17 per cent to \$19 million francs.

The problem for Euro Disney is the gradual re-introduction of interest and management charges, which rose to 236 million francs from 214 million francs the year before.

The standstill agreement on about 15 billion francs of debt ends this year, and a freeze on royalty payments to Walt Disney ceases in 1998. The theme park will then have to pay an extra 800 million francs a year.

The park will also have to contemplate introducing another mega-ride to keep visitors happy. All this, according to analysts at Paribas Capital Markets, means that Euro Disney needs to increase revenues by about 50 per cent to justify its share price.

## News in brief

### Unit trust sales climb over £1bn

UNIT trust sales last month hit a record high of more than £1 billion. The sale of Personal Equity Plans, up by £90 million, was boosted by private investors rushing to meet the year's tax concessions deadline.

Funds under management rose to £121 billion, and the number of accounts jumped by 230,000 to more than seven million, the biggest monthly rise for nearly two years.

Philip Warland, director general of the Association of Unit Traders and Investment Funds, believes that money is still being retained in building society savings accounts to maximise conversion payouts. He was optimistic about the income from insuring Tessa, saying "when that money is released and seeks higher returns, the flows into unit trusts will rise again." — *Cliff Jones*

### WPP revenue rises 13pc

WPP, the world's largest advertising company, pushed its first quarter revenue up by more than 13 per cent to £380.4 million, thanks to strong growth in its Asian, Latin American, African and North American advertising markets. Virtually none of the revenue growth came from acquisitions.

WPP, the London-based parent of advertising agencies J. Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide, said the UK was hit by a slowdown from the "unsustainably high levels of growth experienced in the first quarter last year."

It was ahead of budget, with improvement in all four marketing services sectors: media advertising, market research, public relations and specialist communications. — *Tony May*

### LIG's £46m purchase

LONDON International Group, the world's biggest condom maker, has agreed to buy Aladam Corp, a US-based medical glove and condom company, for £46 million. Aladam is the US market leader in the medical examination glove field, with 13 per cent of the market. — *Rosier*

### More adopting ethics

ALMOST half of Britain's largest businesses have adopted or are preparing to adopt a code of ethics. The Institute of Business Ethics reports today that 202 of the largest 500 companies already have a code. This is a substantial increase since the institute's first survey in 1987, when ethical codes existed in less than a fifth of companies. — *Roger Coote*

### Unilever switches fish-oil

FOOD, detergent and cosmetics company Unilever announced yesterday that it had ceased using fish-oil derived from industrial fishing in European waters. The decision follows the group's alliance with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which will establish a Marine Stewardship Council to work for sustainable fishing. Unilever said that replacing fish-oil in Europe would cost \$8-10 million. — *Roger Coote*

### Premier ups payout

PREMIER Farnell, the electronics distributor created from the controversial £2.8 billion acquisition of the US group Premier Industrial by Yorkshire-based Farnell, yesterday reported 1995 pre-tax profits of £75 million on sales of £287 million. The dividend has been increased by a fifth to 10.5p per share. Since the acquisition of Premier was not completed until April 11 it is not reflected in the results. — *Roger Coote*

### Enter the dragon

As the handover to Chinese rule in Hong Kong approaches, the Guardian Finance team's comprehensive reports on the prospects for the colony are now available in booklet form for £2.50 including postage and packing. Please write enclosing cheque or postal order, payable to Guardian Newspapers to Enter the Dragon offer, City Office, the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, LONDON EC1 3ER

## £281m gift for private railway operators

Kelith Harper Transport Editor

**T**HE first six private rail franchises have received £281 million from the Government to operate in their set-up year. It was announced yesterday.

As the Midland main line passed into the ownership of National Express for "a nominal consideration", the rail franchise director's office announced that the £281 million subsidy was cheaper than British Rail's forecast of £326 million for the same period.

Roger Salmon, the franchising director, said National Express had secured a 10-year franchise for the route, subject to contracts for new trains by 1999. The company plans to introduce 12 new diesels and to open a new station north of Loughborough.

This should mean 22 new trains a day from London to Leicester, and 10 more between London and Derby and London and Nottingham. The company plans to offer free tea and coffee and to improve station facilities.

National Express will receive a £16.5 million subsidy from Mr Salmon, but the subsidies will cease by the year 2000, and by 2006 the company will be paying the franchise director £10 million a year to run its service. The franchise complements the Gatwick Express line which National Express won earlier this month.

Adam Mills, the company's deputy-chief executive, said he looked forward to developing patronage on the line, and to taking traffic off the M1. The line operates from London to Leeds via Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield and Derby.

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£188.07	£9,027.36	13.8%
£206.68	£9,920.64	19.9%
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مكتبة الامم



Racing

Hi-tech detection beats the dopers

Chris Hawkins

RACING is winning the battle against the criminals with the chemistry sets. Less than 2 per cent of all horses tested for drugs last year returned a positive sample - 14 out of 727.

maintaining this vital integrity service, so important to win the confidence of punters and owners, is over £2 million a year and Britain is devoting proportionately more than any other country in Europe.

agents, but they are not preventing detection and are overrated. "Detection technology has come on by leaps and bounds, but we must not get complacent and ensure that we keep up our guard - you can be sure that wherever there is big money involved people are constantly trying something new."

Feathered Gale going for Gold

FEATHERED GALE is 5-1 with Hill's to follow up his Irish Grand National victory in the Whitbread Gold Cup, last big chase of the spring season, at Sandown on Saturday, writes Ron Cox.

The Thresher Classic Trial, which follows the Whitbread, could provide Derby clues. Entries include Henry Cecil's Silver Dancer and the Royal Lodge Stakes winner, Mares.

This divergence of views over what is permissible is an intractable problem and, try as they might, no headway is being made to bring the two camps together.



Stoop to conquer... Mike Lalor hip-checks Martin Ulrich of Austria during the United States' 6-1 win in the world ice hockey championship in Vienna yesterday

American Football

Monarchs sack Hammond after record defeat

Michael Carlson

THE London Monarchs, who suffered their worst defeat when they lost 37-3 in Frankfurt on Saturday, yesterday fired their head coach Bobby Hammond.



Ferry... Frosty falling out

London's fans demand a winning team," said Gareth Moore, general manager of the Monarchs. "Faced with a disappointing start we felt a fresh face and different direction were essential."

Monarchs all over the Waldstadion, William the Refrigerator" Ferry spent most of the game on the bench.

Pontefract runners and riders with form

Table listing race results for Pontefract, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Folkestone

Table listing race results for Folkestone, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Chepstow (N.H.)

Table listing race results for Chepstow, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Results

Table listing race results for various tracks including Brighton, Nottingham, and others, with columns for race number, horse name, and position.

HEXHAM

Table listing race results for Hexham, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

5.10 BARNET BOVING HURDLE (OV) 2m 110yds CLASSE

Table listing race results for Barnet Boving Hurdle, including race number, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

RACELINE advertisement with contact information: 0930 1694, Pontefract, Folkestone, Chepstow, Irish Results Service.

Blinkered today for the first time: FOLKESTONE: 3.00 Rabook; 5.00 Astra Martin; PONTFRAC: 2.20 Disco Boy; 3.50 Touch A Million. CHEPSTOW: 3.40 Kissair.







Cricket

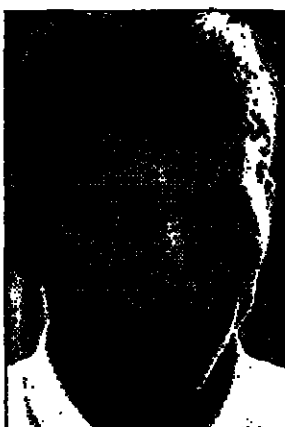
The vote of confidence in Mike Atherton has cleared the decks for fiercer battles to come on the Illingworth panel, says Mike Selvey

England's last easy decision

MIKE Atherton has been given the go-ahead to lead England into the first part of this summer's international season. In a decision that by last year's standards...

It looks like an isolated chairman staking out his territory and, in the face of criticism and a steady undermining of his power base...

not agree with what his ghost had written. Illingworth believes Botham has nothing to offer now: his motivational powers extended to himself only...



Atherton...reappointed

Athletics

Modahl abuses official

DIANE MODAHL could be the subject of a fresh investigation by the British Athletic Federation after an astonishing public attack on one of the officials who suspended her.

Competitors finishing the London Marathon watched in amazement as Modahl shouted abuse at Joslyn Hoyte-Smith in the baggage area of Sunday's race before being led away by her husband Vincent.

"She really laid into Joslyn," said one onlooker. "She clearly believes that Joslyn had quite a lot to do with what happened to her."

It was the first time Modahl had met Hoyte-Smith since the latter was the fourth member of the BAF's panel which suspended the former Commonwealth 800 metres champion for four years in December 1994...

Rugby Union

RFU faces the inevitable on pay-per-view

Robert Armstrong

A GROWING number of club administrators believe that pay-per-view television, especially for European Cup games, must be introduced to help provide the income to pay players and develop their grounds in the professional era.

The Rugby Football Union, which in theory would like to see the terrestrial channels retain a role in transmitting top fixtures, will inevitably be forced to go along with pay-per-view with BSkyB to fund a new multi-million pound contract.

But even so, when the RFU today spells out its policy on the renewal of TV contracts, it is a facting certainty that officials will play down or ignore the looming prospect of pay-per-view.

Supporters pay a top price of £35 to attend internationals at Twickenham and from £7 to £25 at the gates to watch club games but so far their TV viewing of Five Nations Championship matches and Courage league fixtures has been free, apart from basic rental and licence fees.

All that is set to change in the second half of the Nineties when Sky develops the same financial grip on international, European and domestic rugby that it has exercised since 1992 over Premiership soccer.

Truly serious money can be raised to pay the annual salaries of England's top 300 players, ranging from £15,000 to £60,000, only by going directly to the TV consumer and asking him or her to pay a good deal more.

As one cash-strapped League One chairman put it recently: "Professionalism means the days of cheap rugby for supporters, whether they are in the stands or their favourite rickshaw, are over. In order to survive clubs will have to provide the type of rugby people will pay extra to watch."

However, the leading Five Nations matches — those involving England or France — are unlikely to escape the costly embrace of pay-per-view either. The RFU's determination to negotiate its own TV deal outside the remit of the Five Nations committee rests on the undeniable pre-

England At The Rest

Thorpe steals final scene

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford

THIS audition of a match has proved something of a disappointment for the casting directors of English cricket: yesterday Graham Thorpe dominated play like a leading man unwilling to share the stage with lesser thespians.

The selectors know enough about Thorpe; he is probably one of only five players — along with Michael Atherton, Graeme Hick, Jack Russell and Dominic Cork — sure of his place when the internationals against India start next month.

He had a disappointing Test series against South Africa, scoring 164 runs in eight innings with a tally of 50, but partially mended his reputation with a solid World Cup. He still has a respectable Test average of 40.97 from 26 matches and his left-handedness and belligerence are valuable bonuses.

One criticism has been his inability to "go out". He has reached fifty 17 times but has made only two centuries. Yesterday he scored an unbeaten 141, although he should have peaked at 74 when Ed Giddins dropped him at long leg off Tim Munton.

He batted for almost five hours, faced 226 balls and hit 19 fours and a six. It was the only big innings of the match and it did not prevent England A's comfortable win over the Rest by eight wickets with a day and a hit to spare.

Munton, who was voted man of the match for his seven wickets and 64 runs, Giddins and Glen Chapple all had their moments in this Test trial but view from the selectors' point of view perhaps the most interesting aspect was the captaincy of Nasser Hussain.

Atherton's reappointment as England captain yesterday was made easier by the shortage of realistic alternatives. Hussain must now be viewed as a possible rival when the job comes up for discussion again in mid-summer.

He greatly impressed in Pakistan last winter, when his England A side were unbeaten until the final one-day match. At Essex last season his contribution to the side as Paul Prichard's vice-captain was considerable.

David Lloyd, the new England coach, is clearly impressed. "The A side did really well in this match. They played very much as a team, tight-knit and



Salisbury pain... Graham Thorpe edges the England A leg-break bowler just short of first allip PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

together. It was as if they were carrying on from where they left off in Pakistan."

Only Thorpe threatened to take this match into the fourth day. Mike Watkinson, who produced a couple of lavish off-drives against Ian Salisbury, was the only player to provide him with meaningful company.

The Rest were all out for 253, leaving England A to get 60 to win. The only disappointment for Hussain was that he was out just two runs short of victory, bowled off-stump as he played forward.

fired yesterday by CSKA Moscow on the orders of Russia's defence minister Pavel Grachev. Tikhonov led the army team to 12 successive Soviet League titles starting in 1978 and coached the Soviet team to three Olympic gold medals and eight world titles.

The Vaughan team protested about the Audi's suspension system. But Dr Wolfgang Ulrich, head of Audi Sport, said yesterday: "The suspension on the Audi A4 Quattro was passed legal by the FIA 19 months ago and we have not changed anything. We have asked the FIA in Paris to confirm in writing our car's legality."

Sam Smith won a singles on her Fed Cup debut but Britain were beaten 2-1 by Belarus in their opening pool match at La Manga yesterday. She beat Tatiana Ignatieva 6-2, 6-3 to put Britain ahead but Natalia Zvereva, the world No. 21, then overcame Clare Wood and helped Ignatieva beat Wood and Valda Leka.

Call for referees as rogue sailors loose anarchy on the high seas

Sailing

Bob Fisher in Hydrus

A FLAGRANT disregard for the International Yacht Racing Rules by some competitors here, including several instances of cheating, has marred the Sevens Olympic regatta and highlighted the rising tide of indiscipline on the water.

With yesterday's racing cancelled because of high winds, attention was focused on the problem and Britain's team manager Mike McIntyre said he had been appalled by what he had seen.

On Sunday two French 470s collided at a turning mark, an incident which demanded that one should have taken a penalty turn on protest, but both ignored the infringement. An Italian Soling, whose skipper was warned at the recent world championship for gross misconduct, hit two of the turning marks and continued racing.

Sport in brief

Motor racing

Audi's appeal against Frank Biels's disqualification from Sunday's fourth round of the RAC Touring Car Championship at Brands Hatch will be heard on Monday or Wednesday next week.

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Tennis

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Ice hockey

Viktor Tikhonov, the world's most successful coach, was

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Monarchs lose their head, page 13  
Modahl back in trouble, page 15

England play three-card trick, page 14  
Century for Thorpe, page 15

# SportsGuardian

FA READY TO RING IN THE NEW AS PAUL GASCOIGNE GIVES HIS VOTE TO THE OLD

## Hodde to get England offer

### Chelsea to lose manager by July

Martin Thorpe

**G**LENN HODDE is almost certain to be offered the job of England manager next month because the Football Association has decided to approach only someone it is certain will accept.

"There are important people who have not been approached at all because the object is to have a first choice and succeed in getting him rather than go through a list of names and be rebuffed."

With Kevin Keegan, Gerry Francis and Bryan Robson having firmly turned down the chance to manage England, Hodde emerges as the most credible candidate who both wants the job and is out of contract with his club — Chelsea — this summer.

"We need to have someone installed at the earliest possible moment," said the insider, "certainly ready to take over on July 1, which would leave two months for the new man before England's first World Cup qualifier."

Hodde's contract at Chelsea is understood to run out on June 30. He is delaying signing a new one because of un-

certainly over financing at the club but it also leaves him free to take the England job, which he is believed to covet.

Hodde has a growing reputation for being adventurous and forward-thinking in his tactics and coaching. But there is just a chance the FA sub-committee charged with finding the new England manager may feel he is too inexperienced and not yet successful enough to warrant the job.

In which case it will turn to an older man such as the former manager Bobby Robson, who is out of contract this summer at Porto. The England coach Terry Venables has said he thinks the job would best suit an older man.

The FA insider added that the sub-committee has no thoughts of asking Venables to stay on after the European Championship and that there was surprise at recent stories suggesting he would be asked. Venables's decision to quit after Euro '96 was based on his pending court cases and what he saw as a reluctance by the international committee to renew his contract.

But, said the FA source: "Nobody expressed a view then that his contract should not be renewed. Trying to find a replacement for someone everyone was happy with was the last thing we wanted."

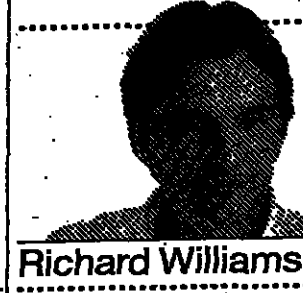
"All that was said to Terry was that, because he had not proved himself in any competitive matches for England and because the new contract had been portrayed as a foregone conclusion in the press, some members of the international committee wanted to discuss it first."

"Terry interpreted that as a snub, which was totally incorrect. There was no doubt that later in January or February, Terry's contract would have been renewed. He had said it was the ultimate job, one he had always wanted. It was surprising to see him throw it away so easily. But, though it was hardly what was wanted, it had to be accepted and a new coach sought."



Bosom buddies... Gascoigne and Venables offer mutual support at Bisham Abbey yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

## Gazza backs Venables with passion



Richard Williams

**I**F THERE were no tears, neither was there any doubt that Paul Gascoigne's emotions had been engaged by a question about his coach's future.

"A couple of the lads rang me up when Terry got the job, knowing I'd worked with him, to ask me what he was like. I said, 'You'll love him right away.' And they did."

He was talking at Bisham Abbey yesterday, still damp from a drizzly training session, about his fitness, his disciplinary record, his role within the England side and, most significantly, Terry Venables's impending departure.

From long experience, Gascoigne knows how to give a press conference what it wants without giving anything away. But his words became noticeably more spontaneous when the subject of the coach came up.

"I was gutted when I heard about it," he said. "I thought it was a real shame. A lot of the players hope it doesn't happen. He's given them something that they could benefit from in the long run. He's done all sorts of things. He's brought in four or five or six 17-year-olds. We never had that chance."

And indeed there had been a fresh face taking part in the morning's routines. In among the stars was the slight frame of Jody Morris, a 17-year-old midfielder who is on Chelsea's books and attends the FA School at Lilleshall.

"It's the kids who're 14 and 15 now who are going to benefit from what Venables has done," Gascoigne continued. "And he's done a lot."

As a coach, Venables has his weaknesses. No longer does he show the originality or the pickpocket's instinct for a lethal set-piece play that marked his early years with Crystal Palace and QPR, which suggests that the big job may have come 10 years too late. He has been accused of cronyism. And his England sides rarely reflect the ethnic balance of today's professional football (although, with Eliogu, Campbell, Sinclair, Ince and Collymore on the

training pitch yesterday, he may be getting closer).

So what is it about him that impresses the players? He is fluent in their language, of course. He looks the players in the eye. He knows their secrets — their professional secrets, that is. They know that he knows how hard their job is. And he never, ever criticises them in public.

Gascoigne's response to that question was instantaneous. "It's respect. He knows what he's talking about. He knows how football should be played. The lads concentrate when he's talking. They listen to every word. And he tries different things."

**A**GAINST Bulgaria last month Venables had changed the formation at half-time. Modestly, Gascoigne claimed that the reason the coach's tactical switch had not borne fruit was because he himself had missed a good scoring chance.

"If the FA would say, 'Right, here's a five-year contract,' I think he would accept it," Gascoigne ventured. "But they haven't, yet. I think he should be around for the next 10 years. Even if I wasn't in the squad, that's how I'd feel."

"The players believe the FA isn't wholly behind him, and I can't see the reason why. The public are behind him, the players are behind him. You lot, the media, have been good to him. And if we don't keep him, somebody else will snap him up."

"That's very nice," Venables responded when Gascoigne's words were related to him a few minutes later. He didn't want to elaborate, and claimed to have been unaware of the players' wish that he should stay. "I've not discussed it with them," he said. "It's lovely to have that support. When I have to cut the squad down to 19 outfield players, I might not be so popular."

There was always a suspicion that Venables's original announcement was a way of taking the pressure off himself in the run-up to the European championship, leaving the way open for a change of mind. That, he said yesterday, is out of his hands. And it won't happen, given the mandate of the FA's international committee. Nor should it, given the state of his legal entanglements.

But it was interesting, for a few minutes yesterday morning, to hear a footballer speak from the heart, with passion. Seldom happens. Impressive when it does.

### Atherton captain against India

**E**NGLAND yesterday reappointed Mike Atherton as cricket captain for the first half of the summer.

The 28-year-old Lancashire opener will oversee the three one-day internationals and three Tests against India.

Although the captaincy for the subsequent series against Pakistan has been left open, Atherton said he did not regard that as a problem and announced himself "delighted" to be in charge against India.

"I feel full of running and refreshed," he said. "The World Cup was very hard and it's been a long winter for everyone. We had a bad World Cup but I think the damage was done before that. I still feel confident I can get the best out of the players."

England's new coach David Lloyd said: "It took us less than 30 seconds to reappoint Atherton. Then we just had to get it rubber-stamped by Dennis Silk."

Mike Selvey, page 15

# World news, delivered to your door.

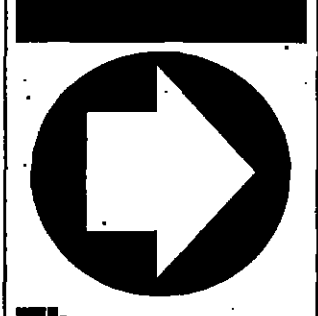
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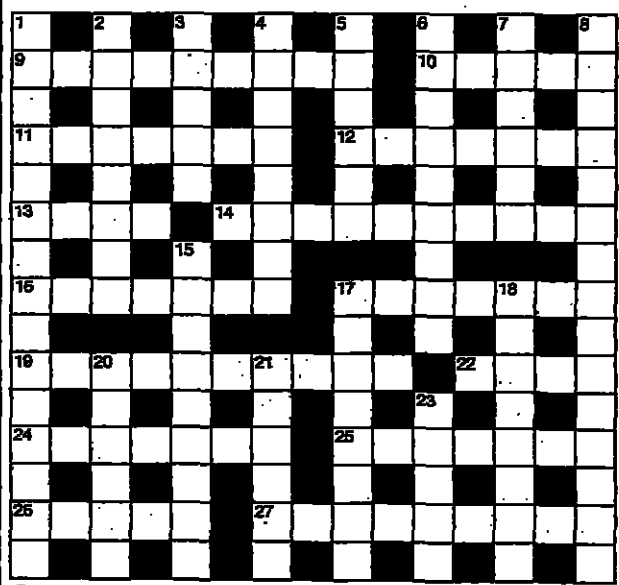


### The continual burying of heads in the island's sands will only leave the system on Sark so open to attack that in the end a complete collapse of that system is inevitable.

Inside Story  
G2 page 4

### Guardian Crossword No 20,634

Set by Orlando



- Across**
- 9 Not main roads, however (8)
  - 10 I get gloomy without my cold house (5)
  - 11 Vehicle to draw back to front (7)
  - 12 Different but possibly related (7)
  - 13 Small brook or river, not well (4)
  - 14 Duke having a good relationship with Gateshead heavyweight (10)
  - 16 A mountain could be so lumpy (7)
  - 17 Charge fish with not being cold-blooded? (7)
  - 19 Knocks grapes said to be sour? (10)
  - 22 Don't eat head of fish a second time (4)
  - 24 Set meal prepared for islanders (7)
- Down**
- 1 Writer or musical craftsman (6,5)
  - 2 Poles planted amidst cereal in Yorkshire town (8)
  - 3 Mountain range in which a sailor capsizes? (5)
  - 4 Worker in prison requiring armour? (9)
  - 5 Attack very musical learner (9)
  - 6 Swollen, like nudist or sadist? (9)
  - 7 Poet's tiptop wine (5)
  - 8 Why is the good and bad bitter-sweet? (5,10)
  - 15 Be fluent in an illicit dram-shop? (5-4)
- 17 Most weak bees felt funny (8)**
- 18 Slowcoach at one, rising with Europeans (8)**
- 20 Money for a one-legged sea-cook (6)**
- 21 Ecôts a manuscript without cessation (8)**
- 23 Father returned flower that's delivered (5)**
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